

Boogiepop
doesn't laugh

2 ブギーポップは
笑わない

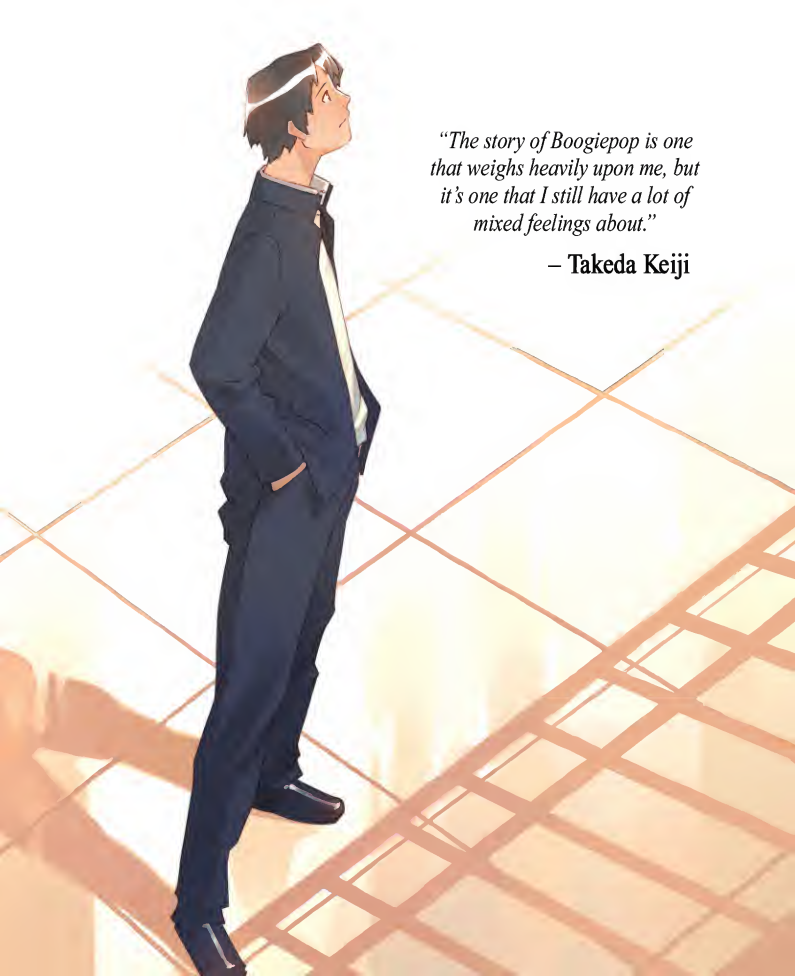
Art by
Kouji Ogata
Story by
Kouhei Kadono



2 ブギーポップは 笑わない

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Kouji Ogata
Story by
Kouhei Kadono

*"I am automatic. When I detect adversity approaching,
I float up out of Miyashita Touka. That's why I am
Boogiepop--phantasmal, like bubbles."*

An anime-style illustration of a young man with short brown hair and a white headband, looking upwards and to the right. He is wearing a dark blue suit with a white shirt and a dark tie. He is standing on a floor with a grid pattern, and his shadow is cast on the floor. The background is a bright, warm yellow-orange color with a grid pattern of lines.

*“The story of Boogiepop is one
that weighs heavily upon me, but
it’s one that I still have a lot of
mixed feelings about.”*

– Takeda Keiji



*“Ultimately...that was **Boogiepop**.”*

– Kirima Nagi

CHAPTER 12 P9

CHAPTER 13 P25

CHAPTER 14 P41

*“I kinda just wanted to mess
with your mind a little. Sorry.”*

– Miyashita Touka



*"Once you've seen me...you
can't be allowed to live."*

– Manticore



*"Congratulations...now you're
officially our enemy."*

– Saotome Masami



P57 CHAPTER 15

P73 CHAPTER 16

P89 CHAPTER 17

*“Apparently the Boogiepop stories were
being kept secret from boys. It was a myth
only the girls knew.”*

— Suema Kazuko



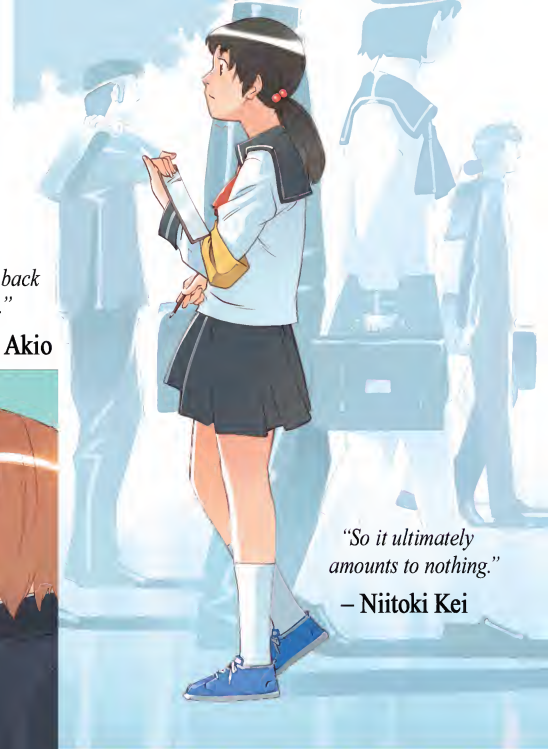


"I think he loved her more than I did."

– Tanaka Shiro

*"An alien. He took her back
with him into space."*

– Kimura Akio



*"So it ultimately
amounts to nothing."*

– Niitoki Kei

P113 CHAPTER 18

P137 CHAPTER 19

P161 CHAPTER 20



*“Why can’t we pick who we
fall in love with? It would
be so much easier...”*

– Kamikishiro Naoko



“Which is it? Which is the truth?”

– Echoes

Chapter Twelve
第12話

BUT...
BUT...THE
KIRIMA
SEIICHI?!!

OF COURSE I
KNOW OF HIM. I'D
LEARNED MOST
OF WHAT I KNOW
ABOUT CRIMINAL
PSYCHOLOGY AND
PSYCHOANALYSIS
FROM READING
HIS BOOKS.

WHY
WOULD
I LIE?

NO, I MEAN
REALLY
REALLY?
YOU'RE NOT
KIDDING?!

HE'S
DEAD
NOW,
THOUGH.

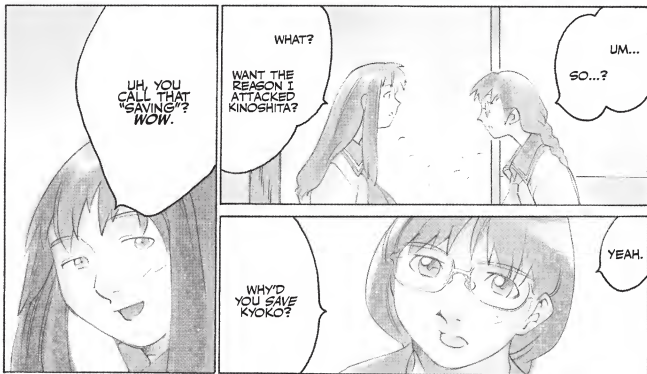
YEP,
THAT'S MY
DAD, ALL
RIGHT.

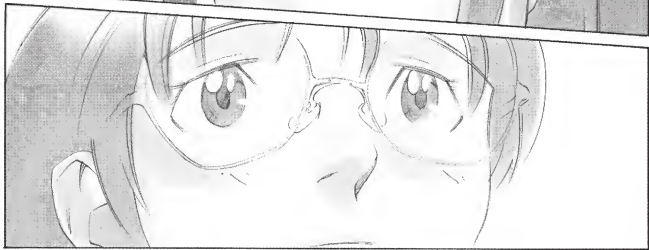
I...
I KNOW...
BUT
STILL...

YOU
DIDN'T
THINK I
HAD A
STRANGE
NAME?

YEAH...

I
HEARD...
BUT
REALLY?

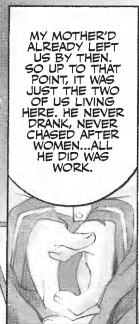






HE WAS
COUGHING
UP BLOOD.
BUT ALL
I COULD
DO WAS
JUST WAIT
THERE BY
HIM JUST
HOPING THE
AMBULANCE
WOULD GET
THERE.

THEN
ONE
DAY, I
GOT
HOME
FROM
SCHOOL
AND
FOUND
HIM
LYING
ON THE
FLOOR.



MY MOTHER'D
ALREADY LEFT
US BY THEN.
SO UP TO THAT
POINT, IT WAS
JUST THE TWO
OF US LIVING
HERE. HE NEVER
DRANK, NEVER
CHASED AFTER
WOMEN... ALL
HE DID WAS
WORK.



UH...
R-RIGHT.



MY
FATHER
DIED
WHEN
I WAS
TEN.



IT'S
WHEN
YOU
LEAVE
EVERY-
THING
AS IT
IS...

...AND
NOTHING
EVER
CHANGES.

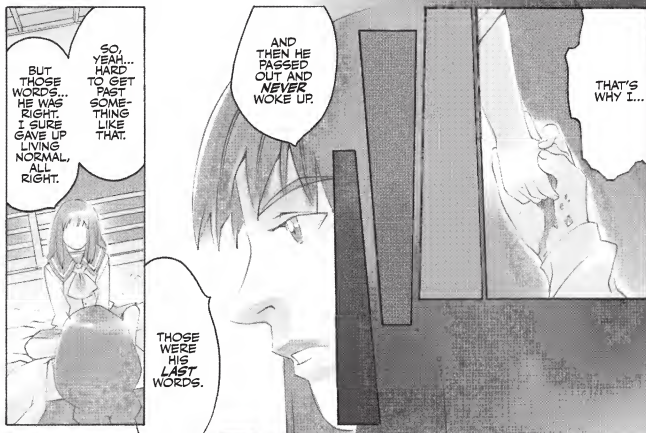


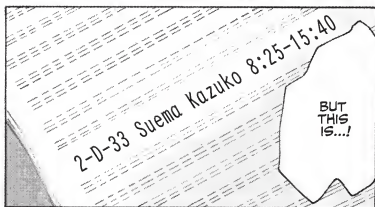
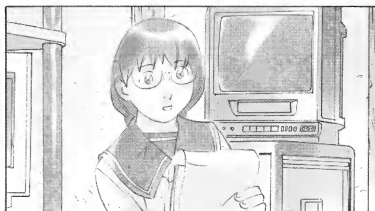
SHAKE
SHAKE



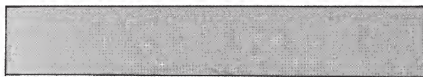
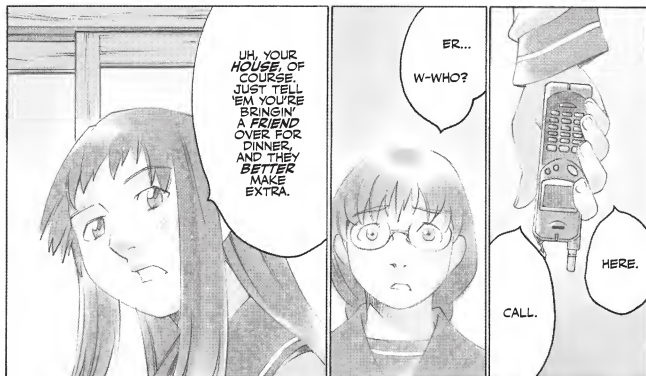
NAGI...

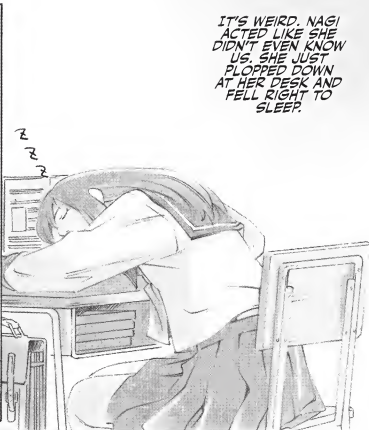
DO YOU
KNOW...
WHAT
"NORMAL"
IS?





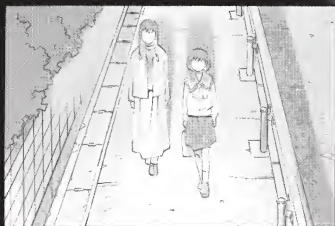
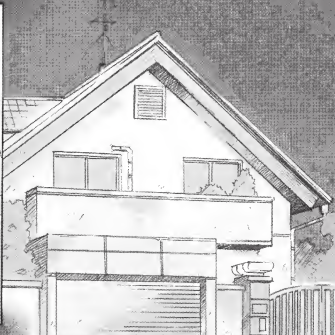








YOUR
FOLKS
PROBABLY
GET *REALLY*
WORRIED
WHEN YOU
COME HOME
LATE, WHAT
WITH WHAT
HAPPENED
BEFORE
AND ALL.



OKAY,
NOW THAT'S
ONE DUBIOUS
LOOKING
SMILE. STILL,
SHE'S A PRETTY
GIRL. IF SHE
DIDN'T FORCE
IT AS MUCH,
IT WOULDN'T
LOOK NEARLY
AS CREEPY.

WELL,
UH...

IN
THAT
CASE--

ニハ
 grin

OF
COURSE.

I'M NOT
DRESSED
LIKE A
TROUBLE-
MAKER,
AM I?



I...I
SUPPOSE.

SO,
YOU'RE
PRETTY
SMART,
HUH?

WHEN
I WANT,
I CAN
PRETEND
TO BE A
NORMAL
GIRL.



HM?
WHAT
ABOUT
HIM?



OH, I
WON'T
TELL
ANYONE.

I KINDA
THOUGHT
SO. THAT'S
WHY I TOLD
YOU ALL
THAT STUFF.

HEARING HER
ASK THAT WAS
PRETTY WEIRD
CONSIDERING
SHE ACES ALL
HER TESTS...
WELL, THE
MAKE-UP ONES,
ANYWAY.



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I'M
GETTING
AT. I MEAN
ABOUT
KIRIMA
SEIICHI.



BUT
WHY?

IT'LL JUST
COME
BACK TO
HAUNT
YOU AND
WARD YOUR
PERSON-
ALITY LIKE
IT HAS
MINE.

WHY?
BECAUSE
THAT
CRAP
FIVE
YEARS
AGO IS
OVER
WITH.
JUST LET
IT GO.



WHY DO
YOU SAY
STUFF
LIKE
THAT?



TRUST
ME...GET
OUT NOW
WHILE
YOU STILL
CAN.

YOU'VE
READ HIS
BOOKS,
AND HERE
I AM, HIS
DAUGHTER,
DOING
ALL THIS
STUPID
SHIT.

DO YOU
REALLY
WANT
TO *END*
UP LIKE
ME?

**キョ
GLARE!!**

NO...
I CAN'T
PULL
BACK
NOW.
I'M NOT
AFRAID.

SO,
THIS
IS THE
GLARE
OF THE
FIRE
WITCH.

WHY...?

THAT
STUFF'S
NOT
PUBLIC
KNOW-
EDGE!!

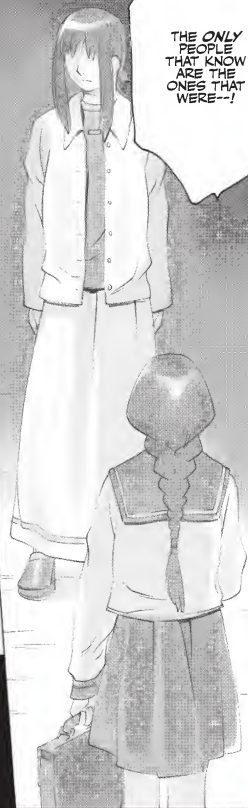
YOU
BARELY
SPEAK TO
ANYONE
IN CLASS!
THERE'S *NO*
WAY YOU
COULD'VE
FOUND OUT
ABOUT
DOCTOR
MURDER!

UM,
I...

THAT
IS--

I
NEVER
TOLD
ANYONE.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT
STUFF FIVE
YEARS AGO?



IT'S
FUNNY.
JUSTICE
MIGHT
WELL
PREVAIL
IN THE
END, BUT
IT'S THE
ORDINARY
PEOPLE,
LIKE ME,
WHO HAVE
NO GUAR-
ANTEE OF
SURVIVING
THAT
LONG.

THERE,
I WENT
AND
SAID IT.

IT'S IMPORTANT
TO ME! I'VE
BEEN OVER IT
OVER A HUNDRED
TIMES IN MY HEAD.
WHY AM I STILL
ALIVE? IS IT ONLY
BECAUSE THE
KILLER WENT AND
HUNG HIMSELF?!
YEAH, IT FEELS
REAL GREAT
KNOWING THAT!

YES,
IT IS!

IT...
IT'S NOT
IMPOR-
TANT.

LIAR!!

....

IT
WASN'T
ME.

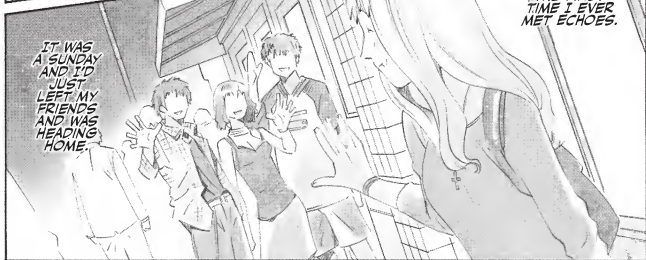
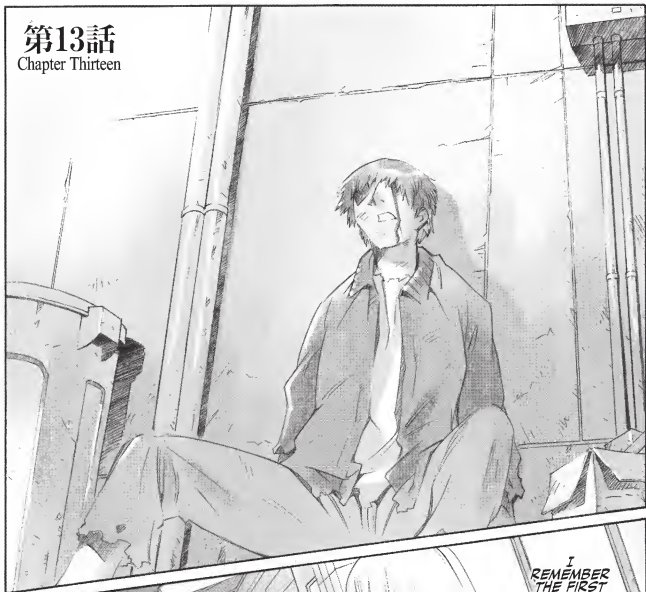
BUT IF
WE KNEW
THERE WAS
SOMEONE
FIGHTING
FOR US...
IT'D SURE
MAKE
THINGS
EASIER.

YOU'D AT
LEAST
BELIEVE
THERE IS
A LOT
BETTER
THAN
KNOWING
YOU ONLY
NARROWLY
MISSED THE
CHOPPING
BLOCK.



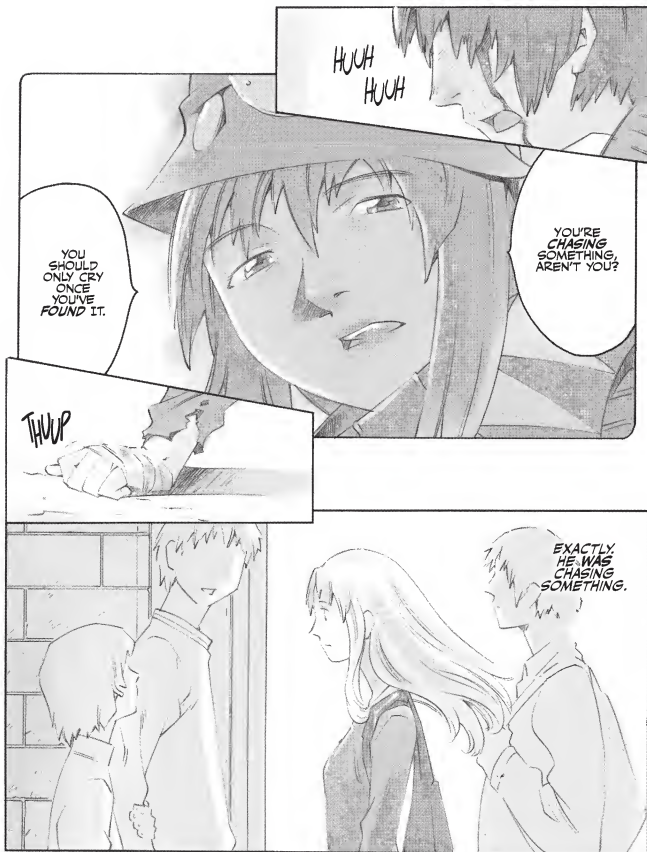
第13話

Chapter Thirteen



IT WAS
A SUNDAY
AND I'D
JUST
LEFT MY
FRIENDS
AND WAS
HEADING
HOME.

I
REMEMBER
THE FIRST
TIME I EVER
MET ECHOES.





NOT A
CHILD IN THE
TRADITIONAL
SENSE, BUT
RATHER A
CHILD CLONED
FROM HIM...
A CHILD THAT
COULD SPEAK
ALL THE
"WORDS" HE
COULDN'T.
BUT SHE
CAN'T STAY
HERE...HE
KNOWS
THAT.

HIS OWN
CHILD...THE
MANTICORE.



FOR HE,
LIKE THE
MANTICORE,
WAS ALIEN
TO THIS
PLANET AND
THEREFORE
SHOULD
NOT EXIST
HERE.

A DECISION
THAT HAS
TO BE
RIGOROUSLY
BALANCED.

AHHH!



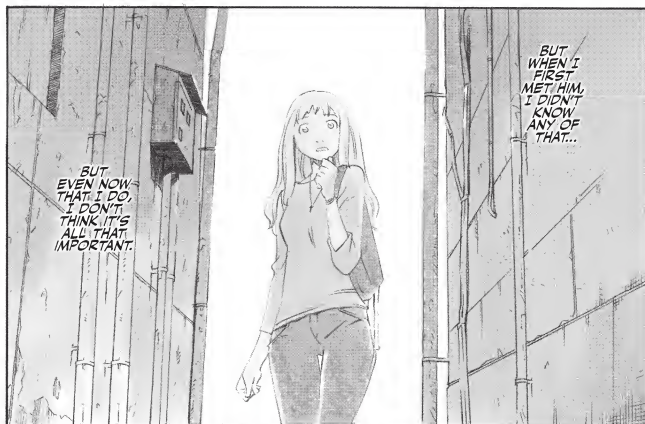
HIS
OBJECTIVE...?

ONE WAY
OR THE
OTHER,
HE HAS
TO MAKE A
DECISION...



FAILURE
TO REMOVE
HER IS NOT
AN OPTION.
ALL OF
HUMAN
CIVILIZATION
DEPENDS
ON IT.

HE MUST
NOT BE
PREVENTED
FROM
CARRYING
OUT HIS
PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE.



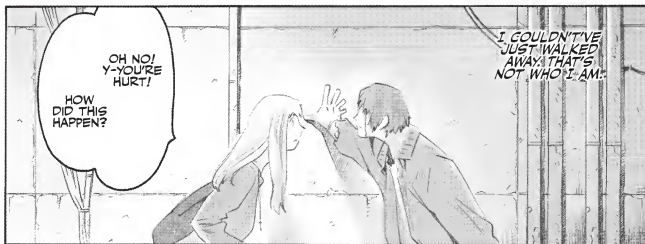
BUT
EVEN NOW
THAT I DO,
I DON'T
THINK IT'S
ALL THAT
IMPORTANT.

BUT
WHEN I
FIRST
MET HIM,
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ANY OF
THAT...



HE
NEEDED
MY HELP.

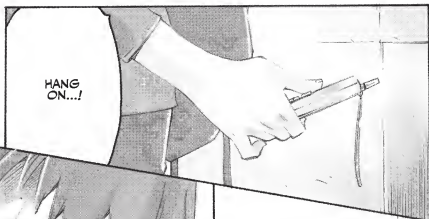
HE WAS IN
TROUBLE.

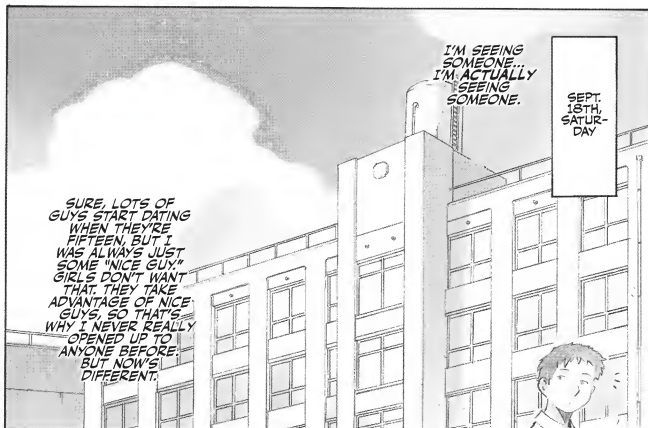


OH NO!
Y-YOU'RE
HURT!

HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN?

I COULDN'T
JUST WALKED
AWAY. THAT'S
NOT WHO I AM.





I'M SEEING
SOMEONE...
I'M ACTUALLY
SEEING
SOMEONE.

SEPT.
18TH,
SATUR-
DAY

SURE, LOTS OF
GUYS START DATING
WHEN THEY'RE
FIFTEEN, BUT I
WAS ALWAYS JUST
SOME "NICE GUY."
GIRLS DON'T WANT
THAT. THEY TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF NICE
GUYS, SO THAT'S
WHY I NEVER REALLY
OPENED UP TO
ANYONE BEFORE.
BUT NOW'S
DIFFERENT.

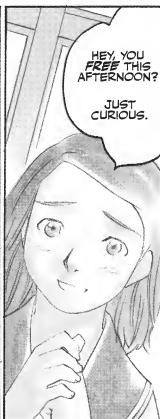


UH...US?



NOPE,
NO PLANS,
KUSATSU-
SAN.

OH, UH,
COOL.
SACHIKO
GOT SOME
FREE MOVIE
TICKETS.
YOU WANNA
COME WITH
US?



HEY, YOU
FREE THIS
AFTERNOON?

JUST
CURIOUS.

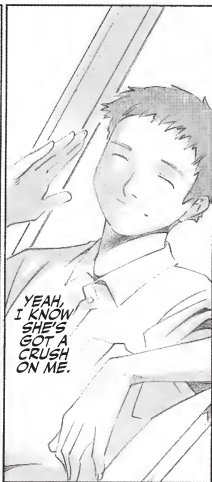


SAOTOME-
KUN!

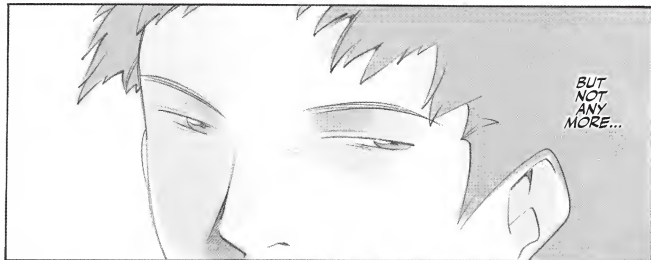




USED TO
ANNOY
THE HELL
OUT OF
ME.



YEAH,
I KNOW
SHE'S
GOT A
CRUSH
ON ME.

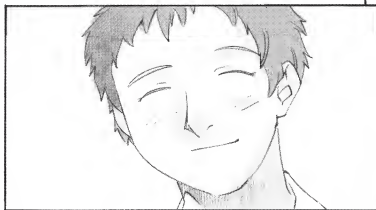


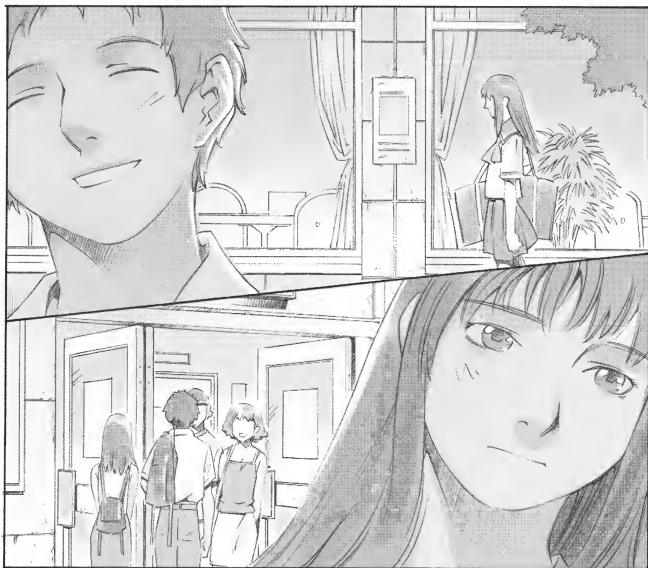
BUT
NOT
ANY
MORE...

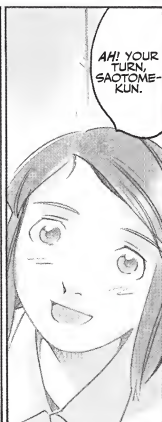
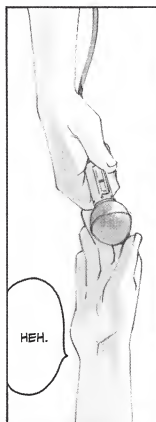














EXCUSE
ME. DRINKS
ARE UP.



OH, I MIGHT
DOWNPLAY MY
OWN SINGING, BUT
I ALWAYS APPLAUD
EVERYONE ELSE'S
HEADACHE-INDUCING
PERFORMANCES.
IT'S ONLY RIGHT,
AFTER ALL.



THE
GOAL IS TO NEVER
STICK
OUT THAT
WAY. NO
ONE EVER
REALIZES
YOU'RE
KEEPING
THEM AT A
DISTANCE.

SURE, I MIGHT
BE A
LITTLE
UNPOPULAR,
BUT AT
LEAST
NO ONE
EVER
RESENTS
ME.



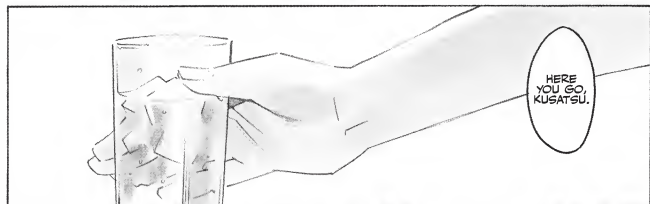
ジュワッ
FIZZ

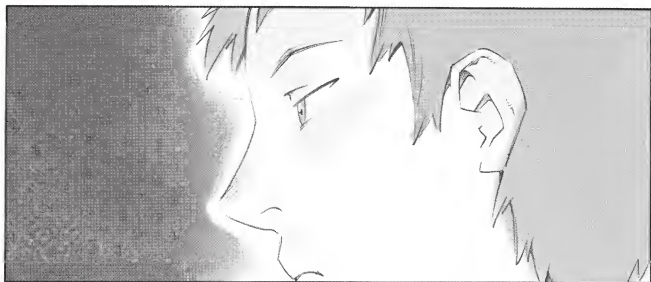
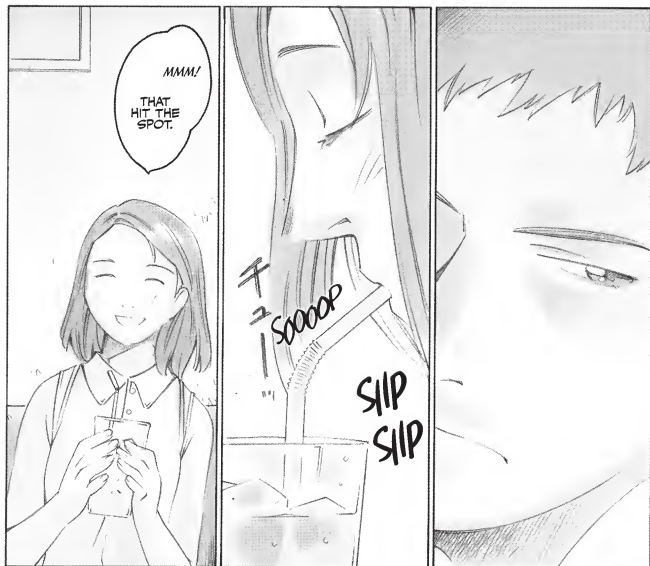


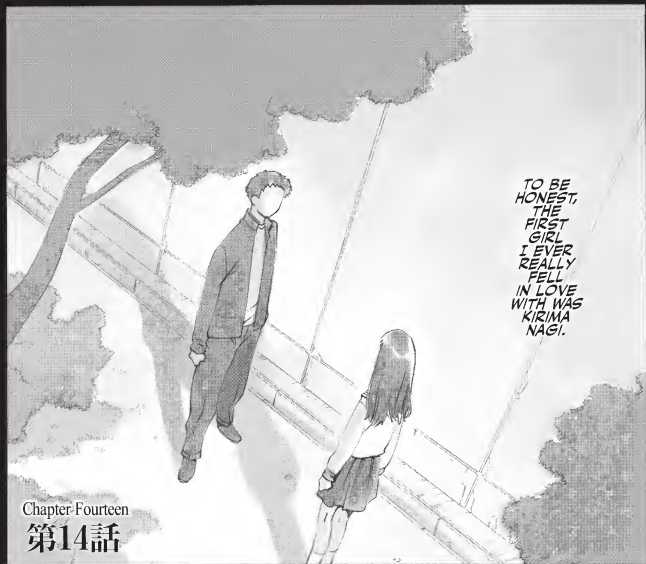
POP



OH,
THANKS...







TO BE
HONEST,
THE
FIRST
GIRL
I EVER
REALLY
FELL
IN LOVE
WITH WAS
KIRIMA
NAGI.

Chapter Fourteen

第14話



I ASKED
HER OUT
LAST MAY,
AND SHE
REJECTED
ME ON
THE SPOT.

SORRY,
KID, I...
I DON'T
HAVE THE
TIME.



UH, NO.
NOT
REALLY.



....
IS...IS IT
BECAUSE
I'M
YOUNGER?



BUT
ME? I'M
NOTHING
BUT
TROUBLE.

SEE,
YOU LOOK
NORMAL
ENOUGH.



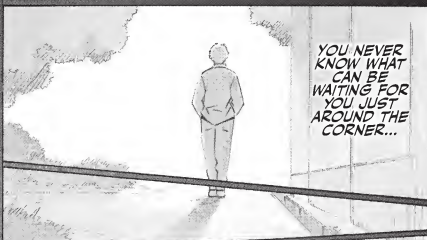
IN FACT,
I WAS
ACTUALLY
RELIEVED
SHE
BRUSHED
ME OFF
LIKE THAT.

AS CRAZY
AS IT
SOUNDS, I
WAS HURT
WAY LESS
BY THAT
THAN I'D
EXPECTED.

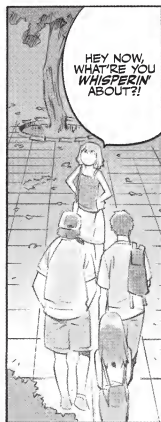
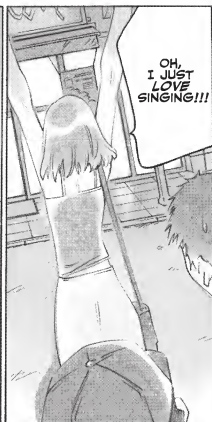


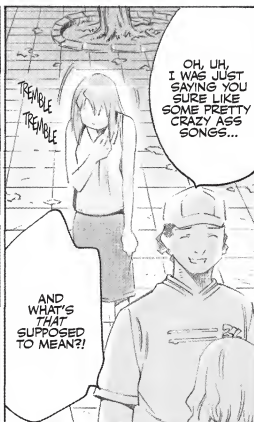
SORRY.

BUT, UH...
THANKS
ANYWAY.

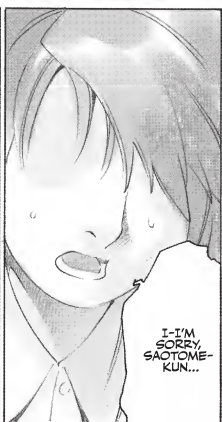
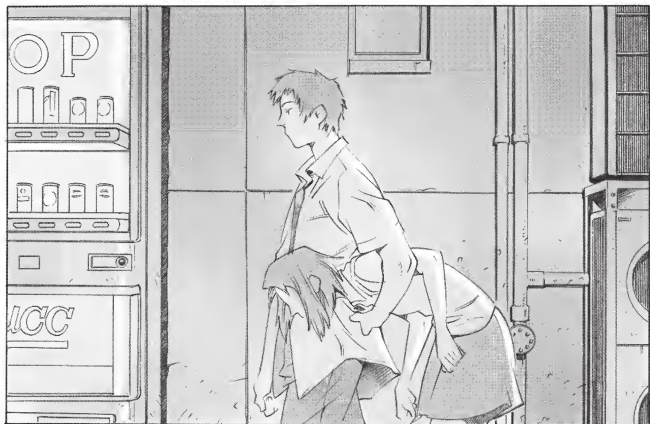


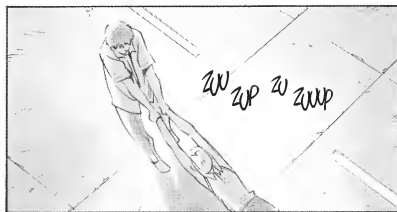
YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT
CAN BE
WAITING FOR
YOU JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER...

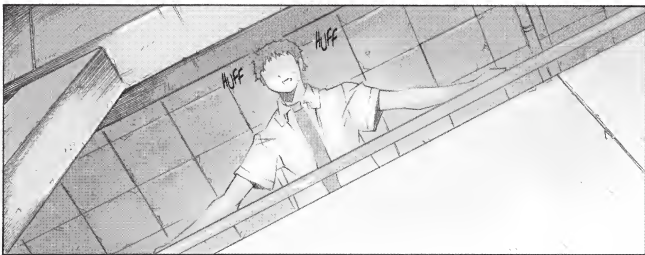
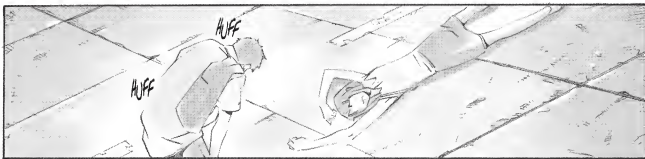
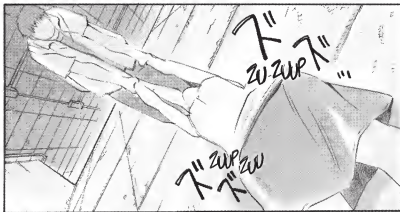


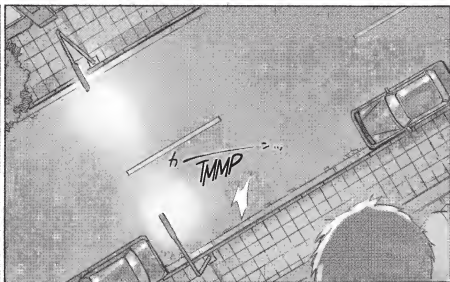
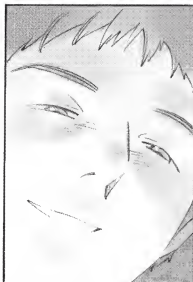














THAT
ONE?

THE
OTHER
GIRL WAS
BETTER.



SEE FOR
YOURSELF.



EVEN
SO...

IT
SEEMS
LIKE A
WASTE
NOT TO
EAT HER
NOW.

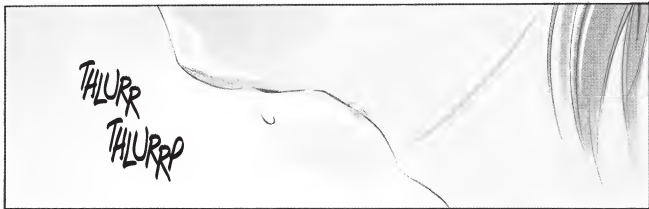
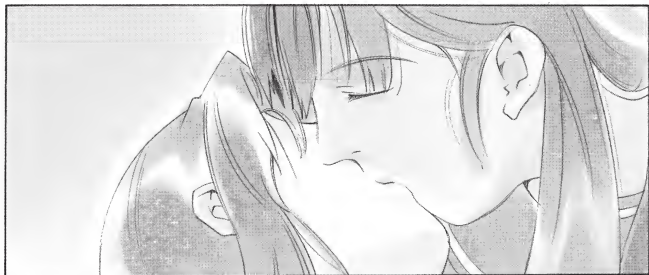


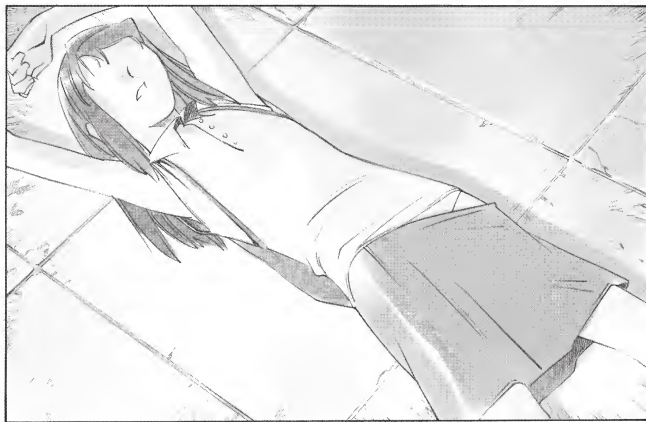
DOES
SHE
NOW?

FINE THEN.
I'LL **TRUST**
YOUR
JUDGMENT,
SAOTOME-
KUN.



NOT
REALLY.
THIS GIRL
HAS **MORE**
FRIENDS
THAN YOU'D
THINK.









UGH!
DON'T
WANT TO
CATCH
A WHIFF
OF THAT...

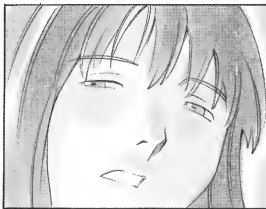
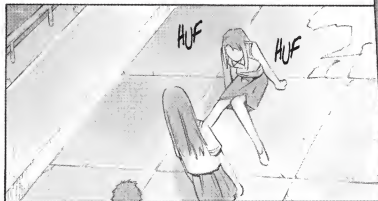
PLP
PLP

GAA
ARRHH!
WAAATTH!!



NO, IT
WOULDN'T
DO FOR
YOU TO GET
ADDICTED
AS WELL,
SAOTOME-KUN.
YOU'RE TOO
VALUABLE.

TRINKLE
"

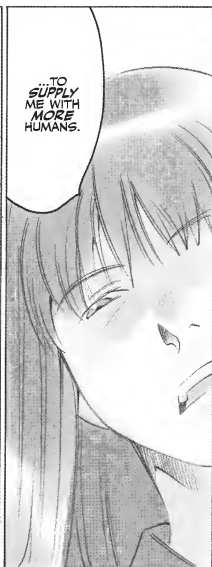


PAY
ATTENTION...
GIRL.





NOD

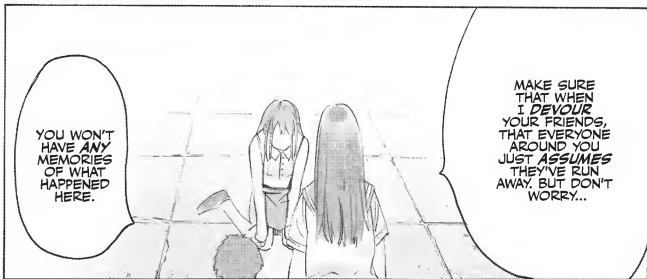


...TO
SUPPLY
ME WITH
MORE
HUMANS.



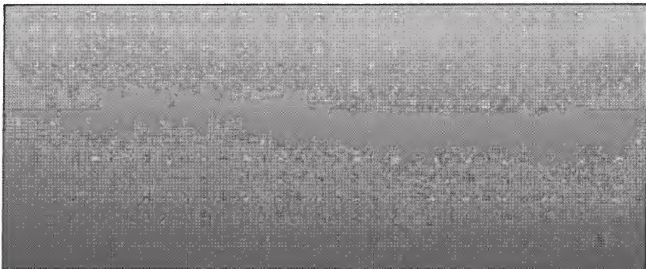
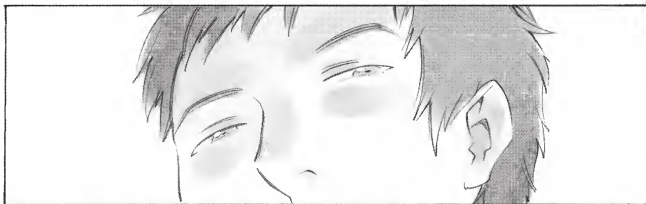
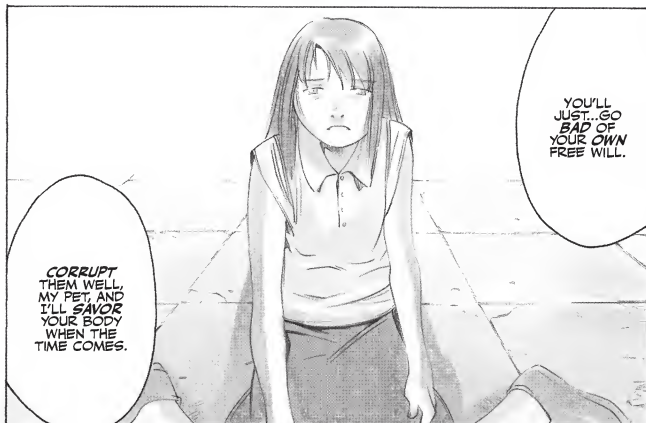
I HAVE
GIVEN YOU
POWER.
POWER TO
CORRUPT
HUMANS.

USE
THIS
GIFT...



YOU WON'T
HAVE ANY
MEMORIES
OF WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE.

MAKE SURE
THAT WHEN
I **DEVOUR**
YOUR FRIENDS,
THAT EVERYONE
AROUND YOU
JUST **ASSUMES**
THEY'VE RUN
AWAY. BUT DON'T
WORRY...







YEAH, THE
PLAN'S IN
MOTION.



IT WENT
WELL?



THAT
ANNOYING GIRL'S
NOTHING MORE
THAN A *PUPPET*
NOW. SHE'S THE
PERFECT VEHICLE
TO GET ALL HER
FRIENDS *HOOKE*
ON OUR LITTLE
DRUG.



HELL,
SHE
WON'T
EVEN
NOTICE
WHERE IT
COMES
FROM.

AND AT
THE RATE
HER BRAIN'S
SHRINKING,
SHE'LL
BE TOO
RETARDED
TO CARE.



I'VE GOTTA
HAND IT TO
YOU, THOUGH.
ALTERING
HER CELLS
SO THAT SHE
REGURGITATES
THE FLUID
HERSELF
IS **NOTHING**
SHORT OF
GENIUS.

DROOL



HEE
HEE
HEE...



IT WAS
RIGHT
BEFORE
THE START
OF SUMMER
VACATION.

WE
FIRST
MET
ABOUT
TWO
MONTHS
AGO.



IT WAS
RIGHT
BEFORE
THE START
OF SUMMER
VACATION.

WE
FIRST
MET
ABOUT
TWO
MONTHS
AGO.

SEMPAI?
YOU
THERE?

HUH?
ISN'T
THAT...
THAT
SMART
GIRL?

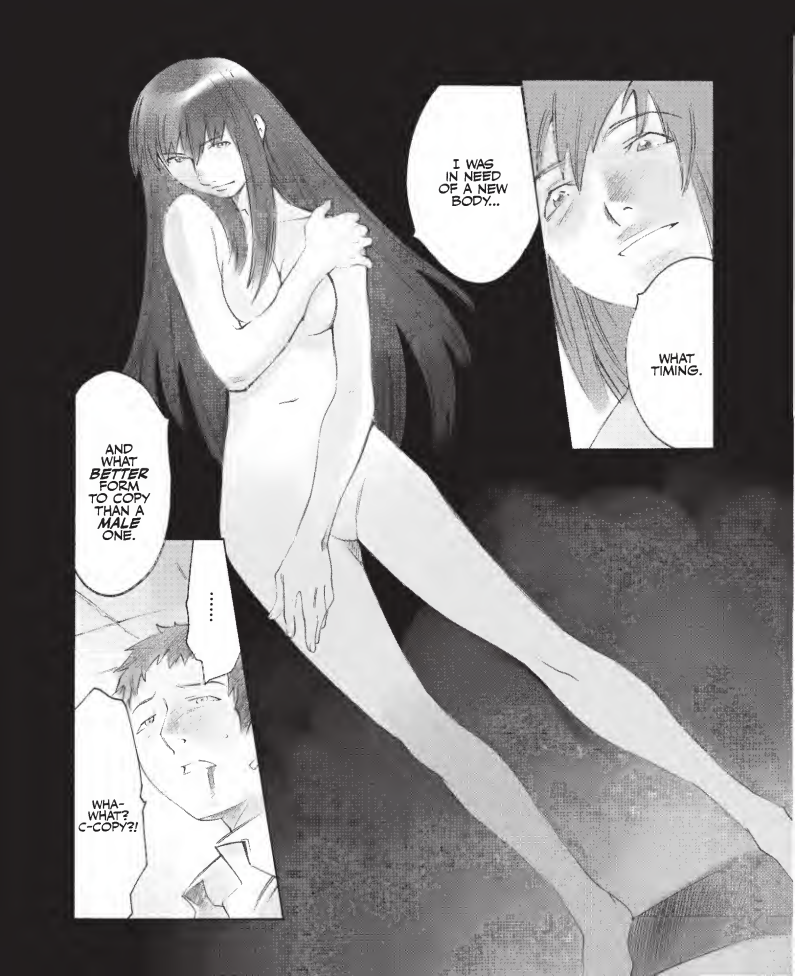


YURIHARA
MINAKO

カッラッ







I WAS
IN NEED
OF A NEW
BODY...

WHAT
TIMING.

AND
WHAT
BETTER
FORM
TO COPY
THAN A
MALE
ONE.

.....

WHA-
WHAT?
C-COPY?!



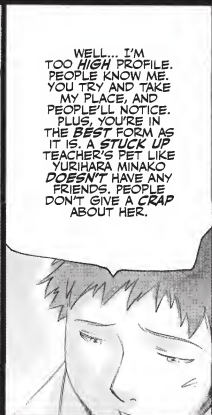
WELL,
IN THAT
CASE, IT'D
PROBABLY
BE MORE
EFFECTIVE
JUST TO
LEAVE ME
ALIVE.



HUNH...



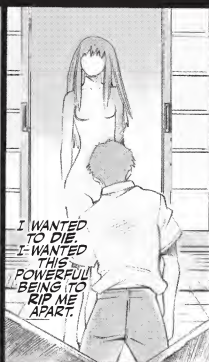
YES.
I SHALL
BECOME
YOU...AND
BLEND
INTO HUMAN
SOCIETY.



WELL.... I'M
TOO **HIGH** PROFILE.
PEOPLE KNOW ME.
YOU TRY AND TAKE
MY PLACE, AND
PEOPLE'LL NOTICE.
PLUS, YOU'RE IN
THE **BEST** FORM AS
IT IS. A **STUCK UP**
TEACHER'S PET LIKE
YURIHARA MINAKO
DOESN'T HAVE ANY
FRIENDS. PEOPLE
DON'T GIVE A **CRAP**
ABOUT HER.



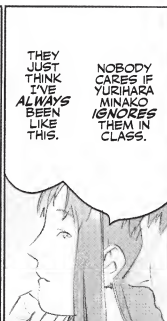
AND WHY
SHOULD I?







I TOLD
YOU SO.



THEY
JUST
THINK
I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
LIKE
THIS.

NOBODY
CARES IF
YURIHARA
MINAKO
IGNORES
THEM IN
CLASS.



YOU WERE
RIGHT, THOUGH,
SAOTOME-KUN.

THIS FORM
DOES FIT MY
NEEDS WELL.



MMM...

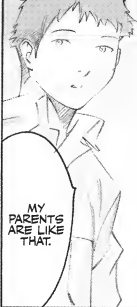
MOSTLY, BUT
BE CAREFUL...
THERE ARE A
FEW *EGOISTS*
WHO THINK
OTHER PEOPLE
ARE JUST AN
EXTENSION OF
THEMSELVES.



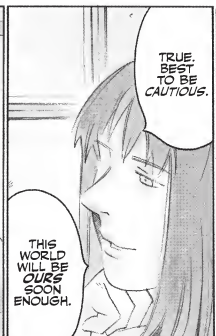
EVEN
YURIHARA
MINAKO'S
OWN PARENTS
DON'T NOTICE
THE DIFFER-
ENCE. IT'S
HILARIOUS!



WANT
ME TO
EAT
THEM?



MY
PARENTS
ARE LIKE
THAT.







BUT...

I DIDN'T
KNOW I
HAD THAT
POWER...

AND I
HAVE THE
POWER TO
MAKE THAT
POSSIBLE.
I CAN
BECOME
ANY HUMAN
I WANT
AND MAKE
ANYONE
DO AS I
DESIRE.

OUR
PLAN IS TO
RESHAPE
HUMAN
SOCIETY
WITH OUR-
SELVES
AT THE
CENTER.



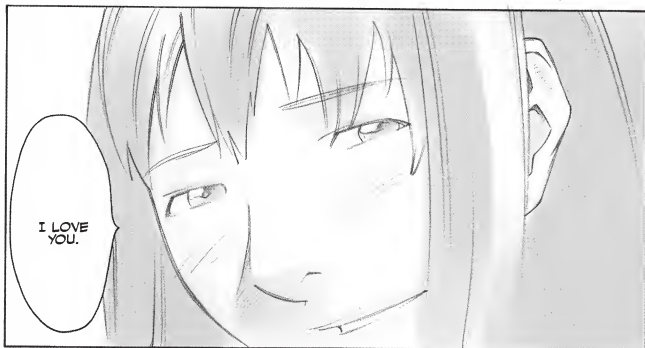
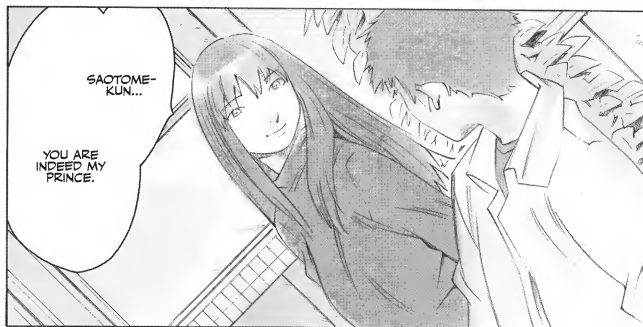
UNTIL
SAOTOME-
KUN CAME
ALONG.

I HAD NO
PARENTS OR
FAMILY. I WAS
JUST SOME
CLONE FROM
A FAILED
EXPERIMENT.

AND
THE ONLY
ONE THAT
EVER
LOVED
ME... WAS
SAOTOME-
KUN.

I KNEW
NOTHING
OF THIS
WORLD
AROUND
ME.

UNTIL
THEN,
I WAS
ALONE.
I WAS
JUST
ANOTHER
ANIMAL
STRUG-
GLING TO
SURVIVE.





AS WE'D
PLANNED,
KUSATSU
AKIKO
GRADUALLY
BEGAN TO
COME TO
SCHOOL
LESS AND
LESS.

Chapter Sixteen
第16話

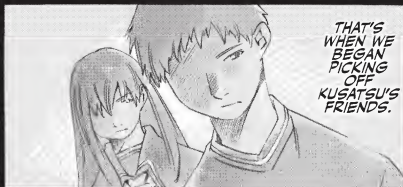


THE
FIRST WE
TOOK WAS
SUZUMIYA
TAKAKO,
A SECOND
YEAR FROM
CLASS F.



...SO
NOBODY
REALLY
GAVE
A DAMN
WHAT
SHE DID.

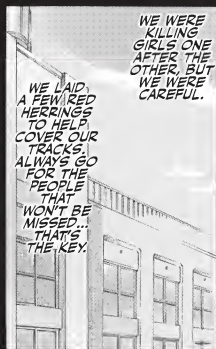
HER
FAMILY
HAD EVEN
FALLEN
BEHIND ON
TUITION
PAYMENTS...



THAT'S
WHEN WE
BEGAN
PICKING
OFF
KUSATSU'S
FRIENDS.

BUT
SOMETHING
WENT
WRONG...

IT WAS
EASY
ENOUGH.



WE LAID
A FEW RED
HERRINGS
TO HELP
COVER OUR
TRACKS.
ALWAYS GO
FOR THE
PEOPLE
THAT
WON'T BE
MISSED...
THAT'S
THE KEY.

WE WERE
KILLING
GIRLS ONE
AFTER THE
OTHER, BUT
WE WERE
CAREFUL.



OH
WELL,
THAT'S
WHAT
EXPERI-
MENTS
ARE FOR.

IT
SEEMS IT
REQUIRES
A VERY
DELICATE
BALANCE.



WE
WEREN'T
ABLE TO
ALTER
THEM LIKE
KUSATSU.

THEY
JUST
DIED AND
NEVER
RETURNED.

A MONTH
AFTER
SHE'D BEEN
ALTERED,
KUSATSU
AKIKO'S
BEHAVIOR
BECAME
STRANGE
AND
ERRATIC.

OCTOBER
11TH

IF SHE
PASSED
OUT AND
WAS TAKEN
TO A
HOSPITAL...

WE
COULDN'T
LEAVE HER
LIKE THAT.

UH-
OH...

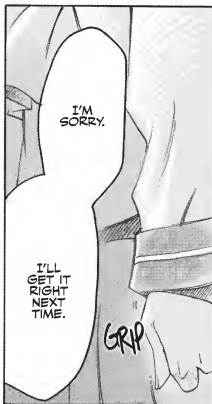
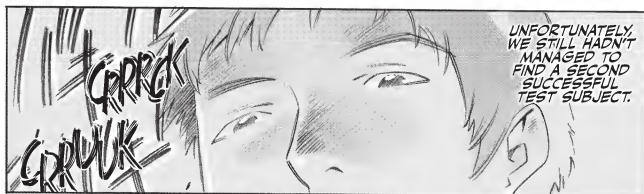
Yahoo!

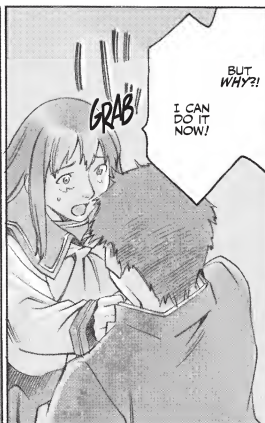
WHEN
PEOPLE
WOULD
SPEAK TO
HER, SHE
BARELY
SEEMED
TO NOTICE,
MUCH LESS
REPLY.

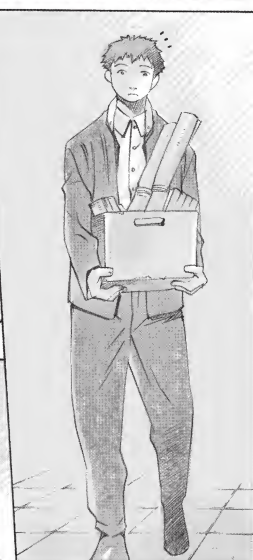
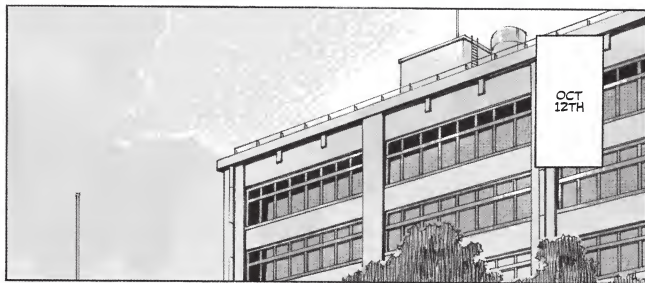
THEN WORD
WOULD
SURELY
GET BACK
TO THE
INSTITUTION
OF HER
CONDITION
AND THE
JIG WOULD
BE UP.

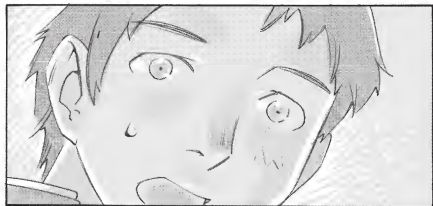
AND
THE
FIRST
STAGE
OF OUR
EXPERI-
MENT
WAS
OVER.

SO
YURIHARA
WAS
FORCED
TO DIS-
POSE
OF OUR
LITTLE
PUPPET...











WAIT,
THOSE
ARE--



S-SEMPAI,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON IN...?



OH,
SAOTOME-
KUN...IT'S
YOU.

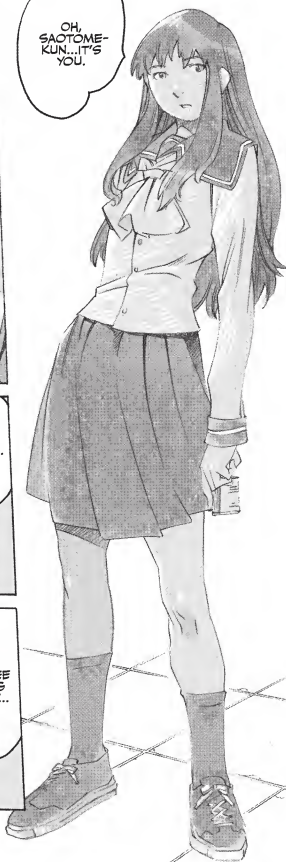


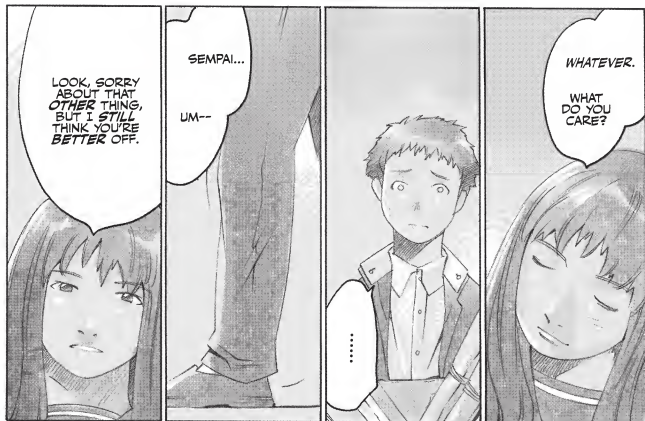
YEAH,
WELL...
YOU
KNOW
HOW
IT IS.



BUT WHY
IN *HERE*
OF ALL
PLACES?

I CAN SEE
GETTING
CAUGHT...







ER, UM...
N-NOT
EXACTLY...



BAA
BUMP



YOU
HAPPEN
TO BE
FRIENDS
WITH
KUSATSU
AKIKO?



YOU
KNOW
HER
WELL?



NO!
I...I
MEAN...

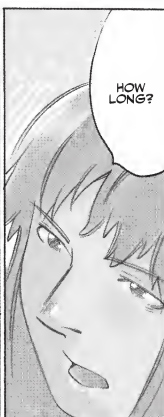


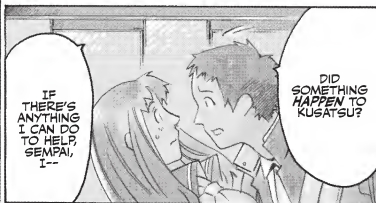
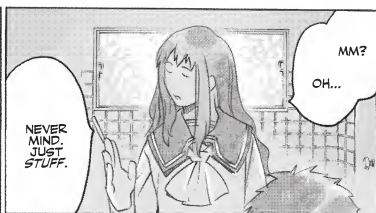
ON A
DATE?



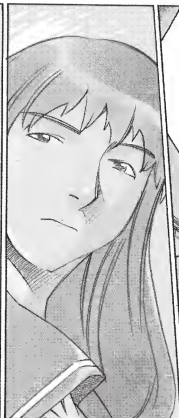
WE...WE
WENT
OUT
ONCE.

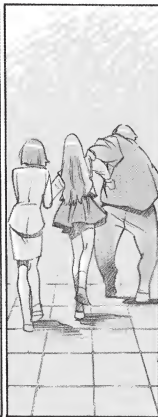
UH, BUT
IT WAS
ONLY
THAT
ONCE!













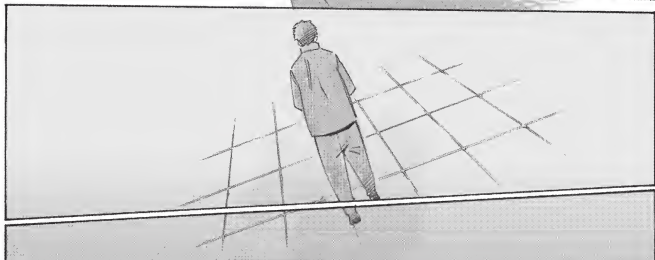
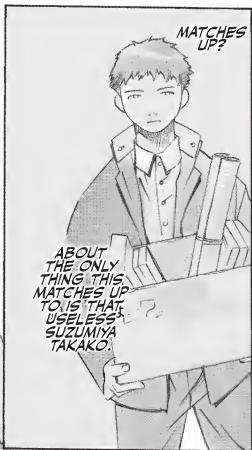
STILL,
NAGI
KNOWS
SOME-
THING...

SOMETHING
A LITTLE TOO
CLOSE FOR
COMFORT.



MATCHES
UP?

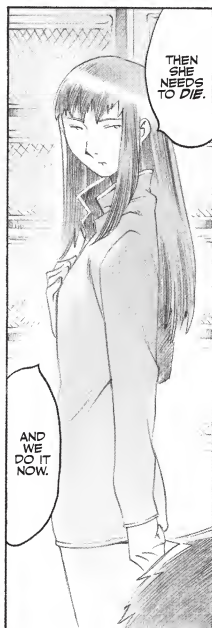
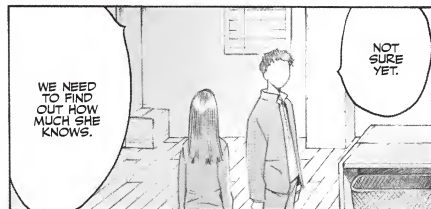
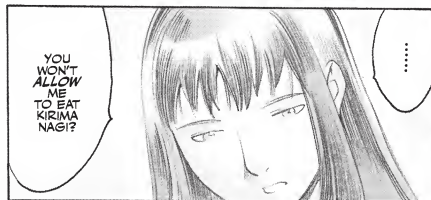
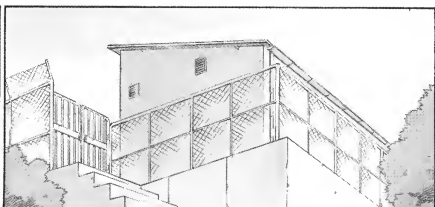
ABOUT
THE ONLY
THING THIS
MATCHES UP
TO IS THAT
USELESS
SUZUMIYA
TAKAKO.

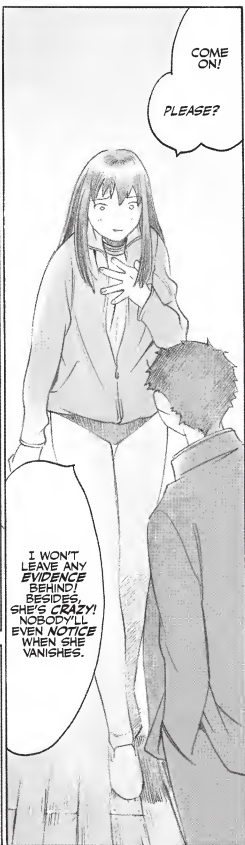




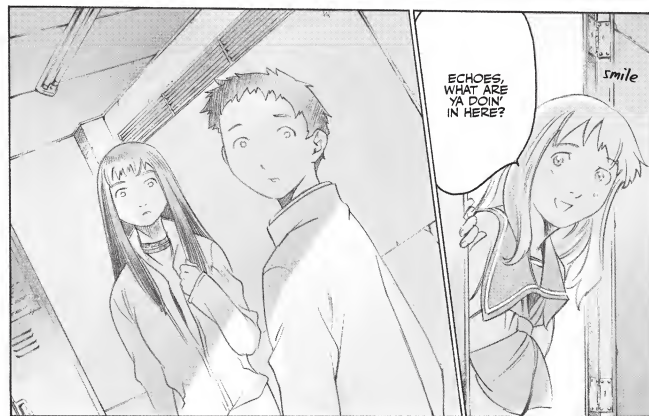
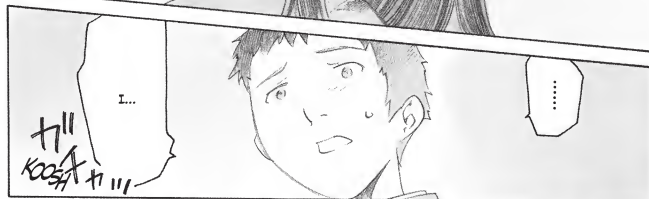
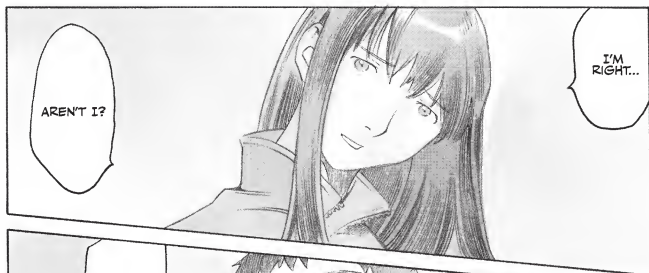
第17話

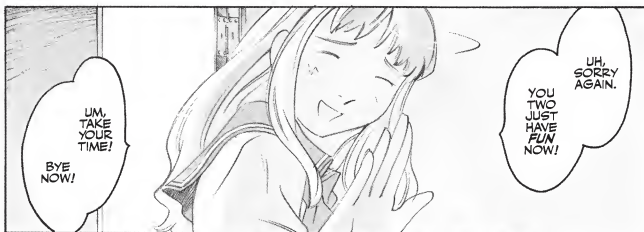
Chapter Seventeen





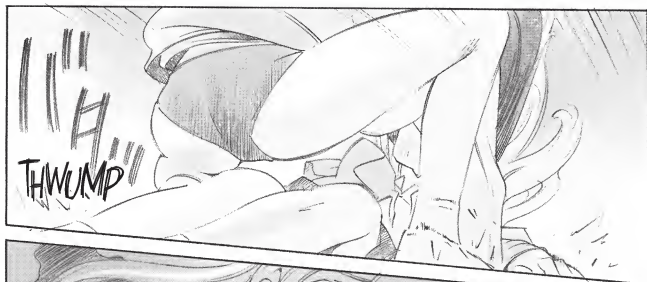


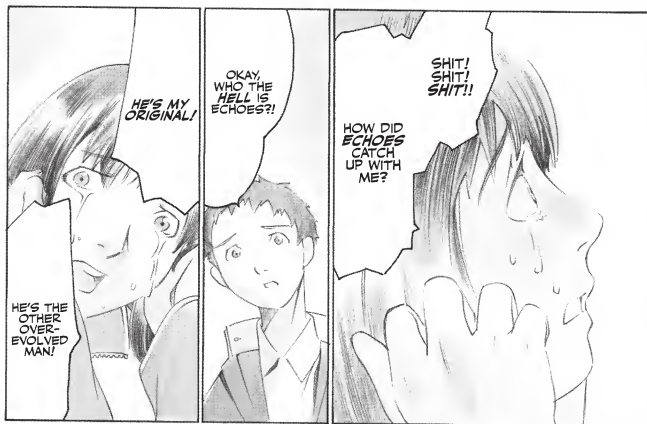


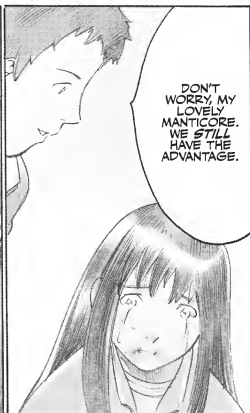


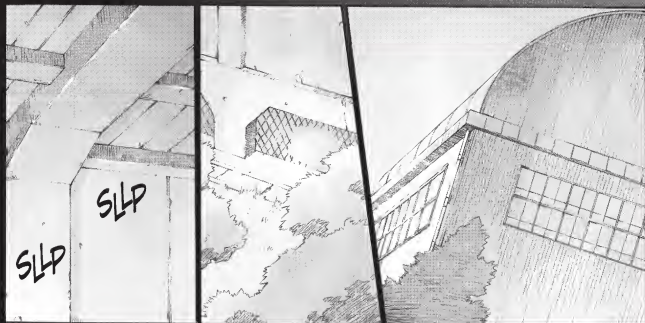












I PROMISE
YOU'LL GET
THROUGH
THIS...I
PROMISE.

SLP

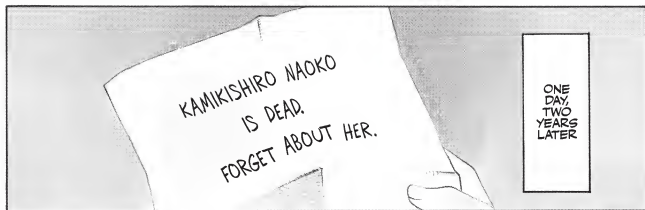


SLP

NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME.

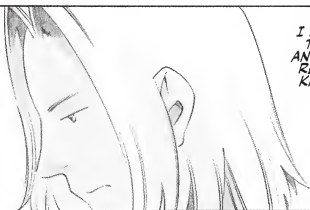
SLRP

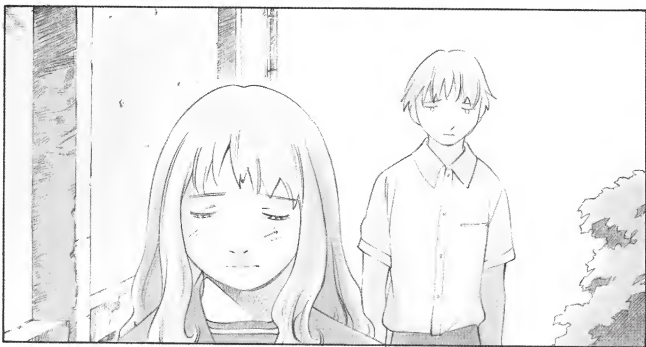
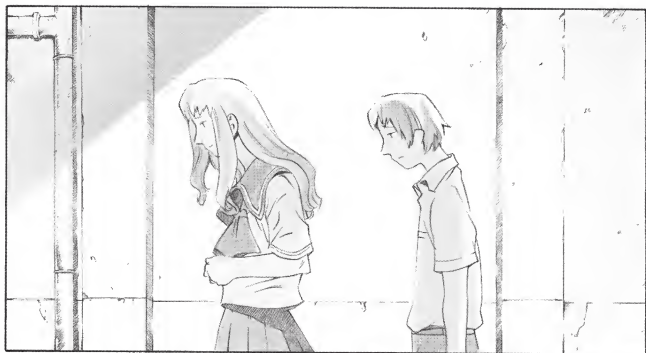


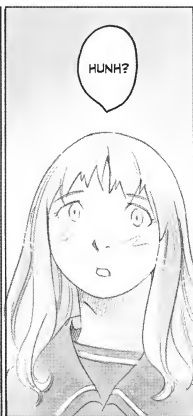
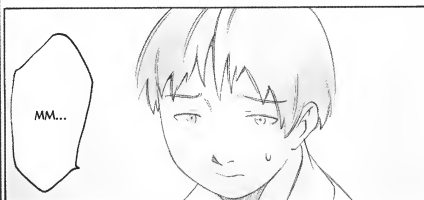
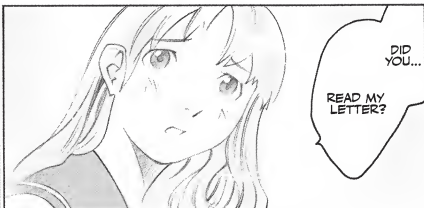
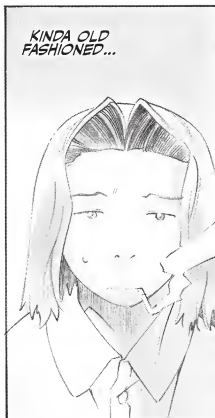


SOME GIRLS,
YOU COULD
JUST READ.
BUT NOT
KAMIKISHIRO.
YOU NEVER
REALLY KNEW
WHAT THE
HECK SHE WAS
THINKING.

I DON'T
THINK
ANYBODY
REALLY
KNOWS
WHY.





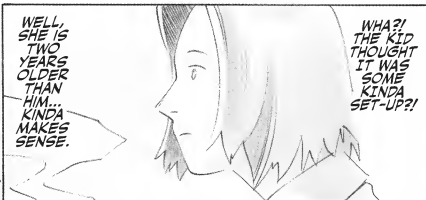




WHOA!
YOU'VE
GOT ME
PEGGED
ALL
WRONG!



SO...
YOU'RE
NOT
GONNA
BEAT
ME UP?



WELL,
SHE IS
TWO
YEARS
OLDER
THAN
HIM...
KINDA
MAKES
SENSE.

WHA?!
THE KID
THOUGHT
IT WAS
SOME
KINDA
SET-UP?!



I'D BE
HESITANT
TOO IF
A PRETTY
SENIOR
WAS 'ASKIN'
OUT A
FRESH-
MEN.

I
KNOW
HOW
YOU
FEEL,
KID!

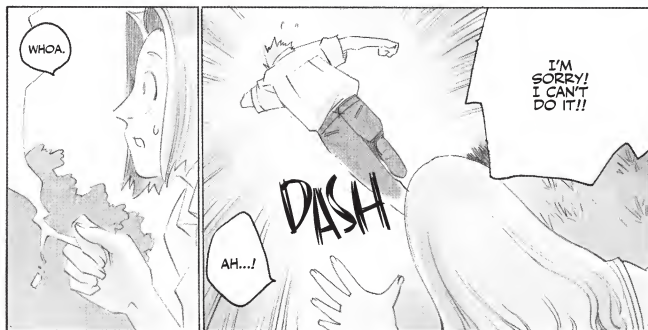


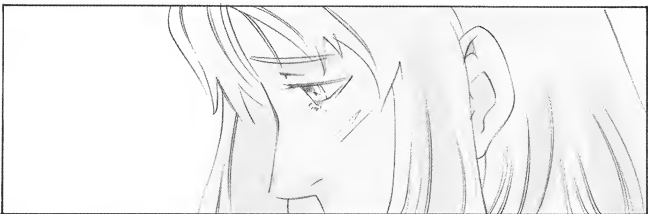
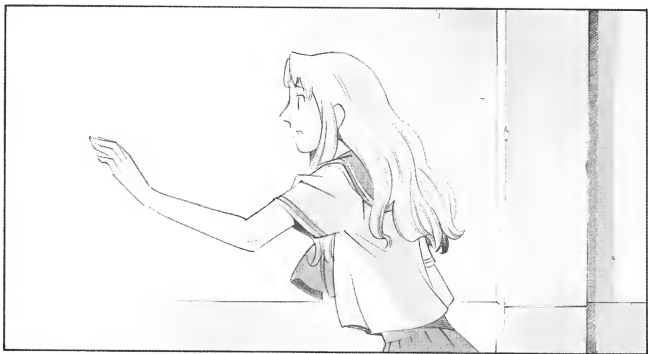
BLUSH

YOU
KNOW...



THEN
WHAT
IS IT?







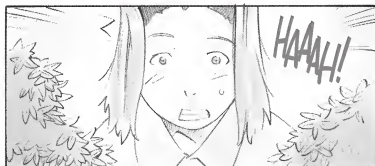
SO,
ENJOYED
THE SHOW,
DID YA?
HEE HEE
HEE.



SHAKE
SHAKE

AHHH...

NOT
AGAIN!



HAAA!!



WE'LL
JUST
SAY...
THIS
IS MY
FEE.

DAMN,
I'VE
BEEN
DYIN'
FOR A
NICOTINE
HIT ALL
DAY.



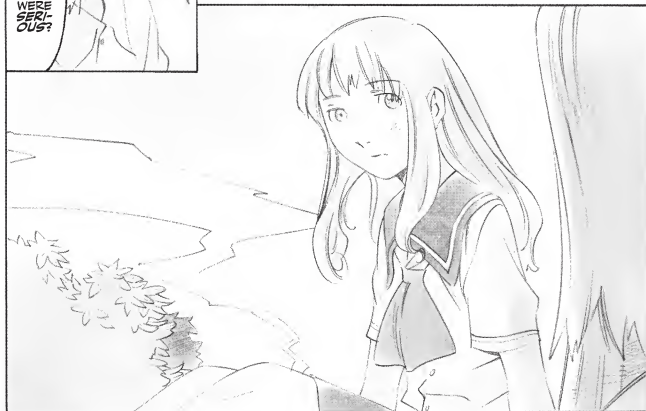
I
COULD
SEE
THAT
HUGE
CLOUD
OF
SMOKE
A MILE
AWAY!

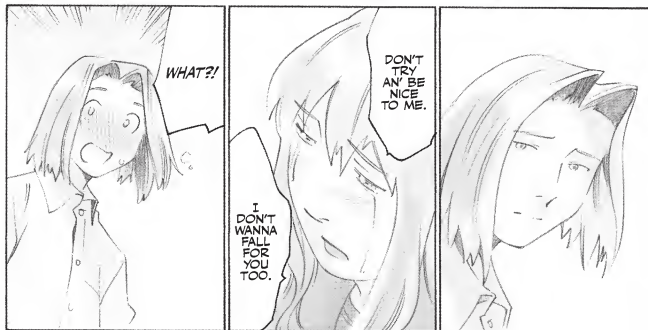
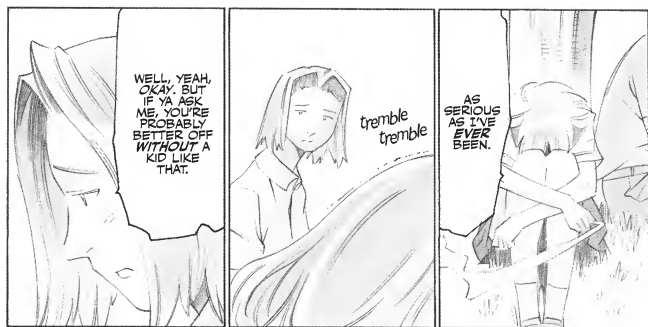
Gotcha

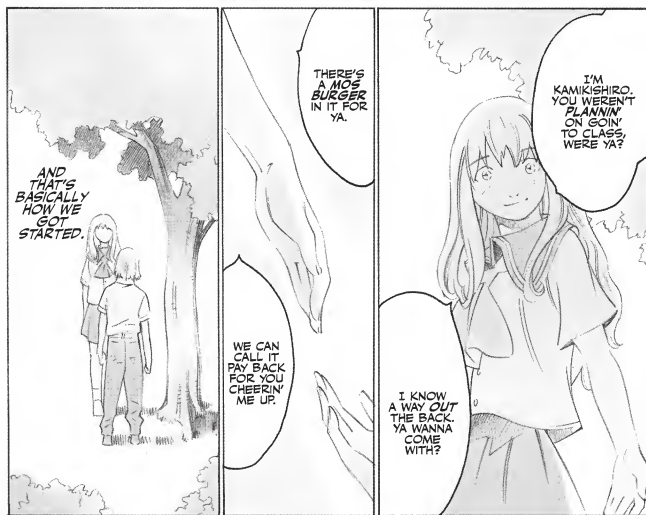
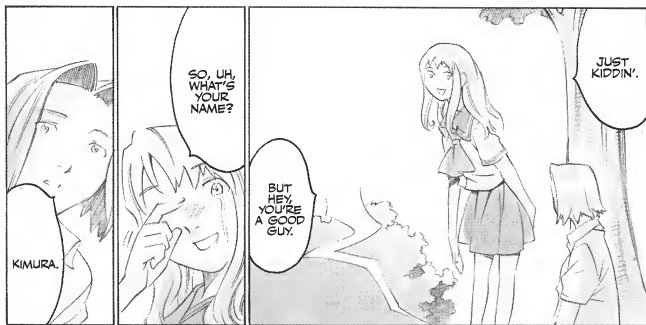


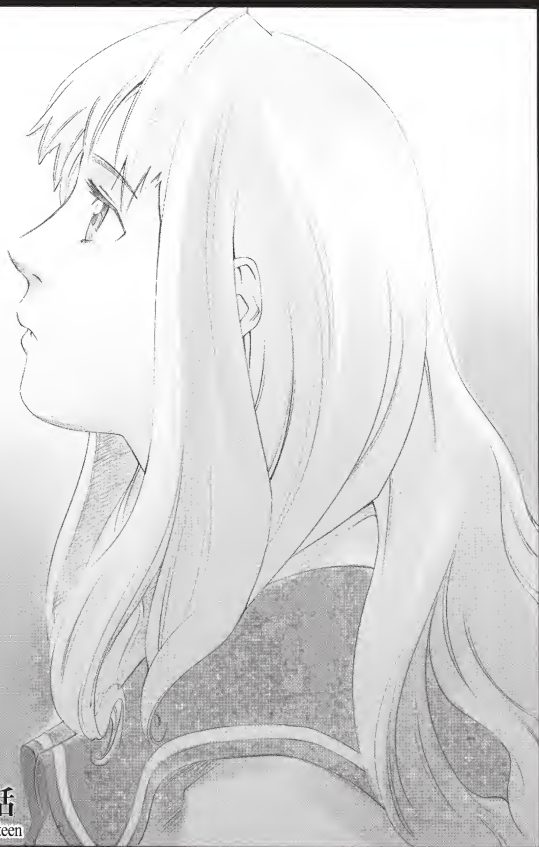
UH,
N-NO...
I MEAN...
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
WATCH...

RUSTLE

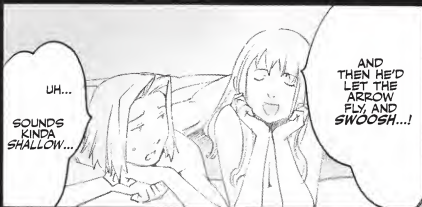


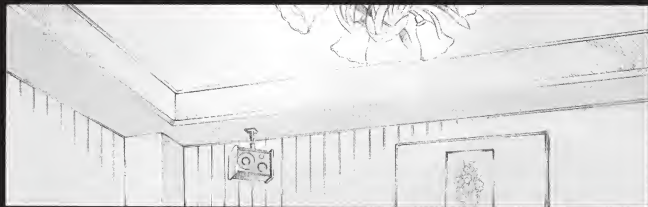
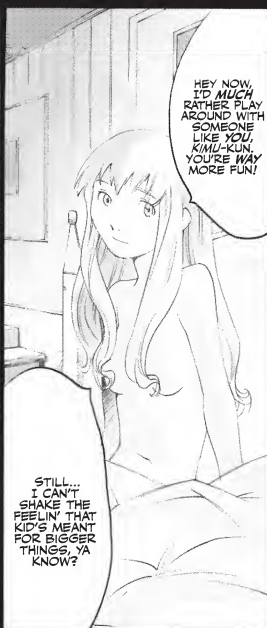


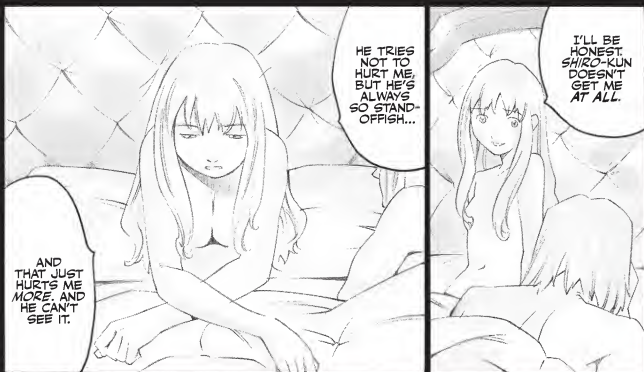


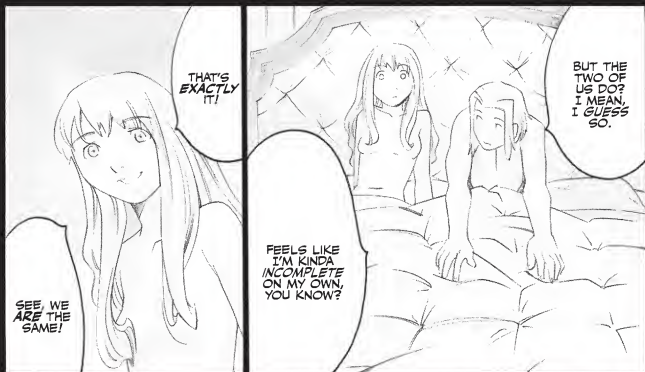


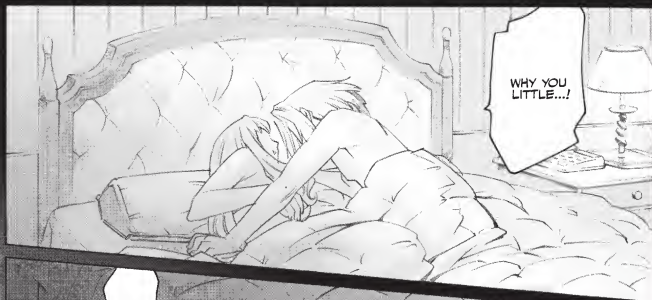
第18話
Chapter Eighteen

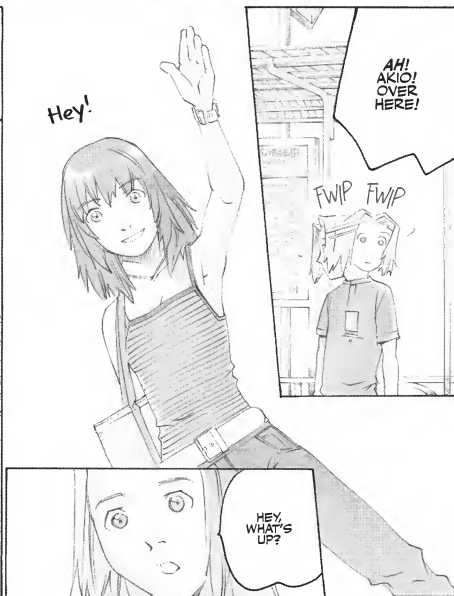
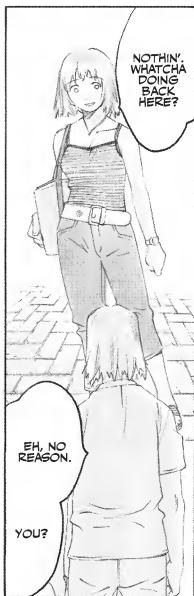
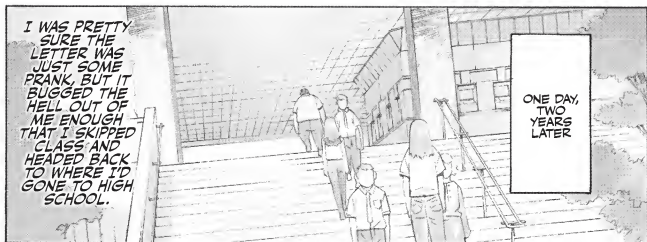


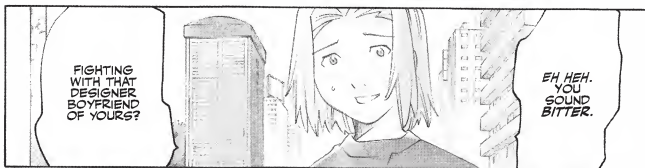
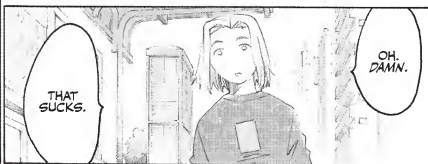






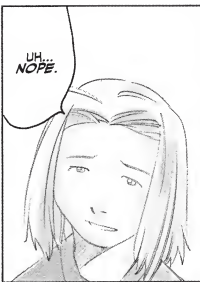








UH...
NOPE.



SO, WHAT
ABOUT
YOU, AKIO?
GOT YOU A
COLLEGE
CHICK YET?



OKAY,
SHE WAS A
THIRD YEAR
THEN, BUT
SHE'D BE
TWENTY
NOW.



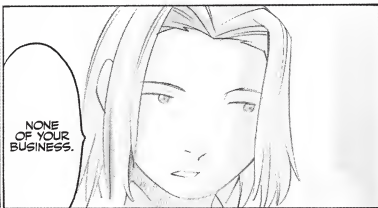
THAT THIRD
YEAR GIRL
STILL GOT
YOU ON A
SHORT
LEASH?



FROWN

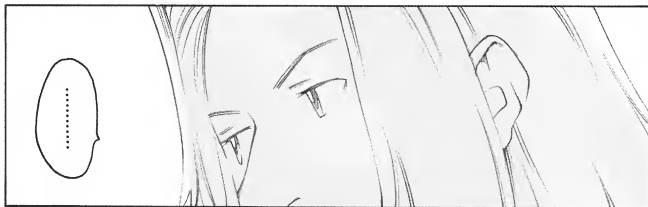
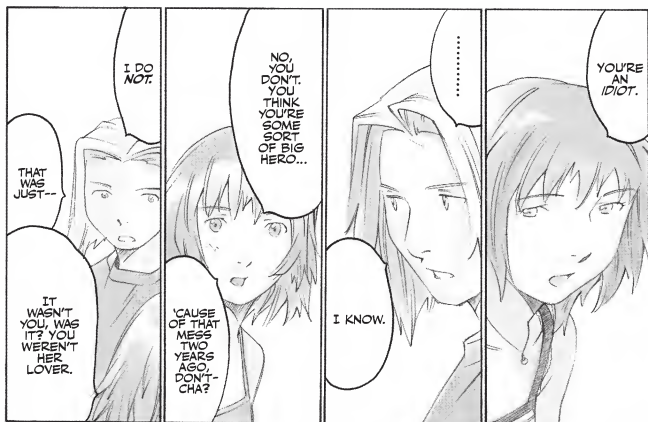


YOU'RE
COUNTING
HER
BIRTH-
DAYS?



NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS.





WITH KAMIKISHIRO STILL MISSING,
THE SCHOOL WAS PREPARING TO
OUTRIGHT EXPEL HER. THAT'S
WHEN I DID SOMETHING STUPID.

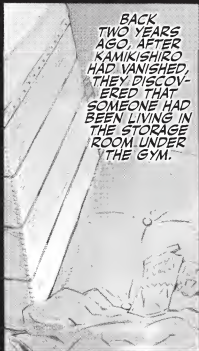


AT FIRST
THEY THOUGHT
IT WAS A
DRIFTER, BUT
THEN THEY
FOUND ONE OF
KAMIKISHIRO'S
EARRINGS AND
IT TURNED INTO
THIS HUGE
SCANDAL.

IT
WAS ME!
I DID IT!



BACK
TWO YEARS
AGO, AFTER
KAMIKISHIRO
HAD VANISHED,
THEY DISCOVERED
THAT
SOMEONE HAD
BEEN LIVING IN
THE STORAGE
ROOM UNDER
THE GYM.

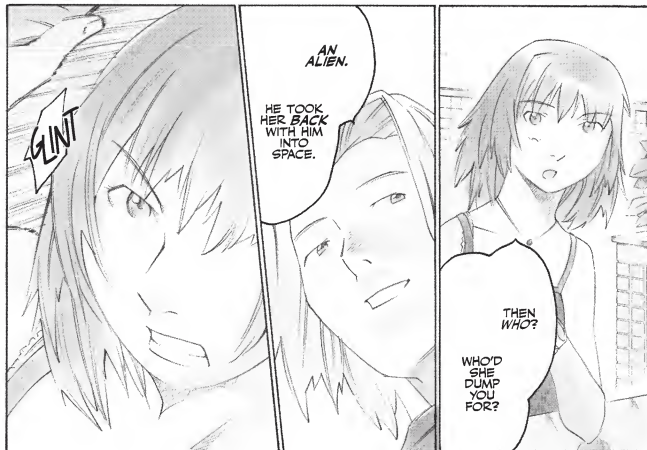


THE STAFF
DIDN'T BELIEVE
ME, BUT MY
CLASSMATES
MADE A FUSS,
AND JUST TO
CALM THINGS
DOWN THEY
SUSPENDED
BOTH ME AND
KAMIKISHIRO.

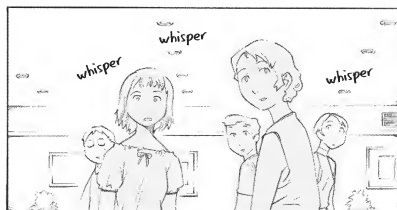


SHE DIDN'T
BRING ANY
OUTSIDERS
INTO THE
SCHOOL! IT
WAS JUST **US!**
PLEASE, DON'T
EXPEL HER!









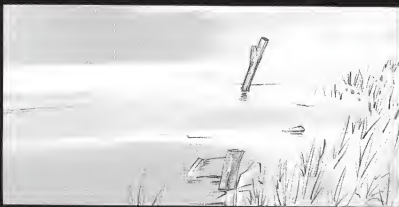
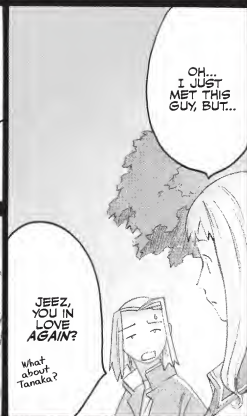
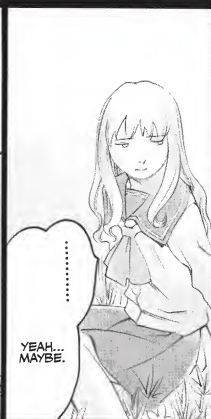
KIMU-
KUN...

DO YOU
THINK
HUMAN
EXISTENCE
IS REALLY
JUSTIFIED?

NOOOPE.

DANG...

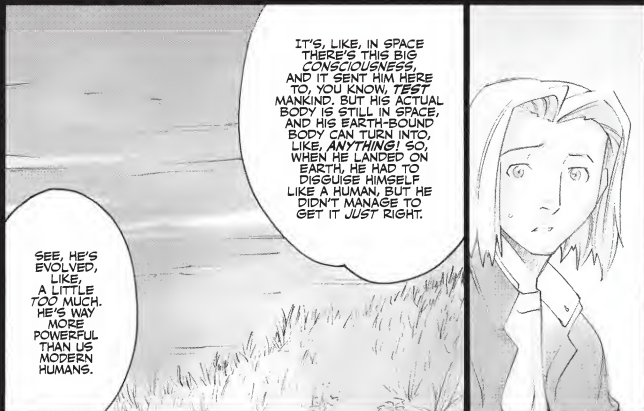
NEITHER
DO I.





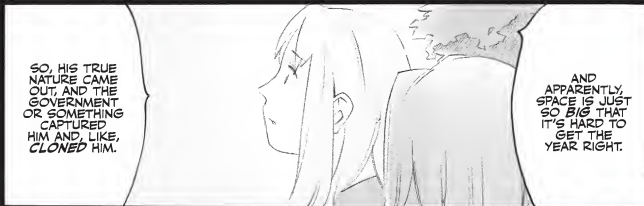
HE'S...

HE'S
FROM
OUTER
SPACE.



IT'S, LIKE, IN SPACE
THERE'S THIS BIG
CONSCIOUSNESS,
AND IT SENT HIM HERE
TO, YOU KNOW, *TEST*
MANKIND. BUT HIS ACTUAL
BODY IS STILL IN SPACE,
AND HIS EARTH-BOUND
BODY CAN TURN INTO,
LIKE, *ANYTHING!* SO,
WHEN HE LANDED ON
EARTH, HE HAD TO
DISGUISE HIMSELF
LIKE A HUMAN, BUT HE
DIDN'T MANAGE TO
GET IT *JUST* RIGHT.

SEE, HE'S
EVOLVED,
LIKE,
A LITTLE
TOO MUCH.
HE'S WAY
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN US
MODERN
HUMANS.



SO, HIS TRUE
NATURE CAME
OUT, AND THE
GOVERNMENT
OR SOMETHING
CAPTURED
HIM AND, LIKE,
CLONED HIM.

AND
APPARENTLY,
SPACE IS JUST
SO *BIG* THAT
IT'S HARD TO
GET THE
YEAR RIGHT.



HE WANTED
TO JUST SAY
ALL THIS,
BUT HE CAN'T
REVEAL HIS
TRUE IDENTITY,
SO HE CAN'T
TALK TO
ANY OF US
DIRECTLY.

BUT THE
COPY'S
NOTHING
LIKE HIM.
IT'S THIS
BRUTAL
MAN-EATER.



WHICH
WAS FINE,
SINCE HE
WAS MEANT
TO TEST
US ANYWAY.
YOU KNOW,
TO SEE IF
WE'D BE
NICE TO
HIM.



BUT THE
MAN-EATER
KILLED
EVERYONE
AT THAT
FACILITY,
AND NOW
IT'S OUT
THERE
SOME-
WHERE.

.....

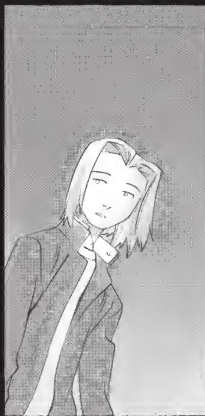
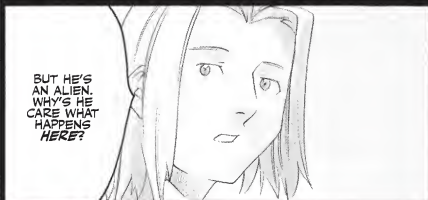
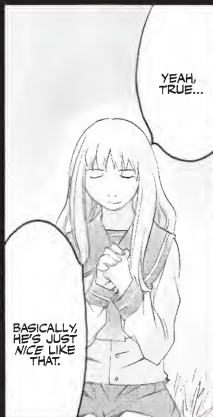


HIS
NAME'S
ECHOES,
BY THE
WAY.
SINCE
THAT'S
ALL HE
CAN DO...

WHAT'S
HE GONNA
DO IF HE
CATCHES
IT?

ECHOES
WENT
AFTER
IT...AND
THAT'S
WHEN HE
MET ME.

KIND OF
FITTING
SINCE HE
CAN ONLY
REFLECT
BACK
STUFF
PEOPLE
SAY TO
HIM.





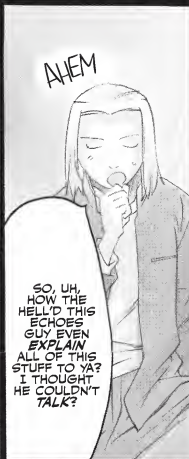
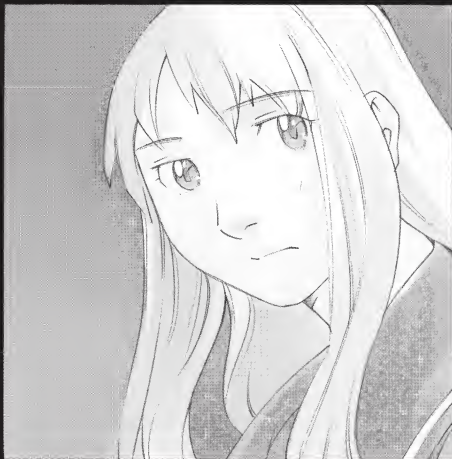
BUT
IF THAT
WAS IT...

DON'T-
CHA
THINK
THAT'S
KINDA
SAD?



SURE,
HALF OF
THIS IS
JUST *ME*
READING
BETWEEN
THE LINES.
THE OTHER
STUFF'S
JUST COM-
PLICATED,
THOUGH.

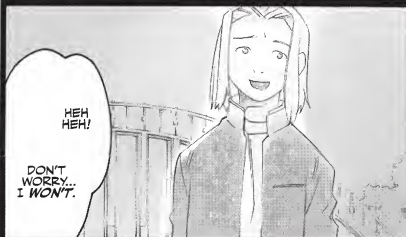
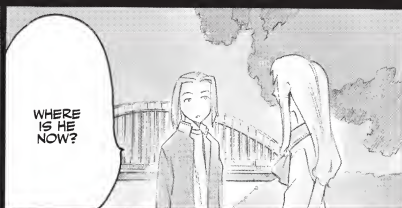
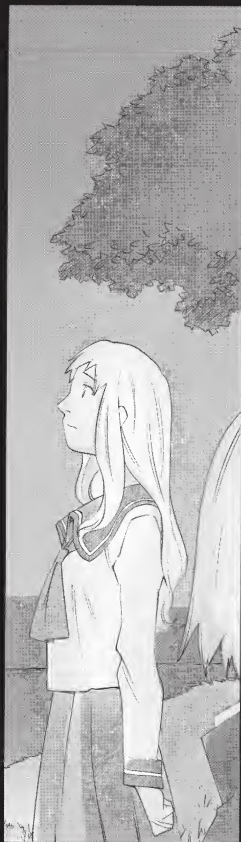
SOMETHING
ABOUT
MAINTAIN-
ING THE
BALANCE
OF THIS
PLANET OR
SOMETHIN'.

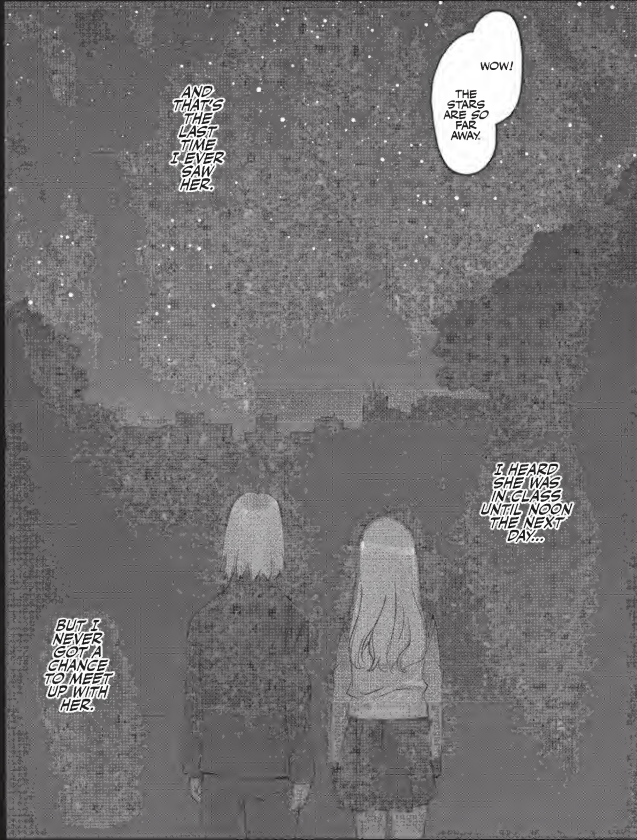


AHEM

SO, UH,
HOW THE
HELL'D THIS
ECHOES
GUY EVEN
EXPLAIN
ALL OF THIS
STUFF TO YA?
I THOUGHT
HE COULDN'T
TALK?





A black and white manga-style illustration. Two girls are seen from behind, looking out over a city skyline at night. The girl on the left has short hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The girl on the right has long hair and is wearing a light-colored top and a skirt. The city skyline is visible in the distance, with many lights. The sky is dark with many stars. There are four speech bubbles containing text.

AND
THAT'S
THE
LAST
TIME
I EVER
SAW
HER.

WOW!

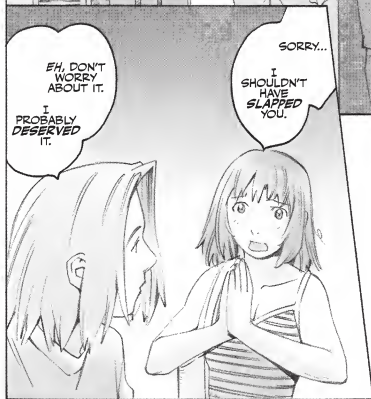
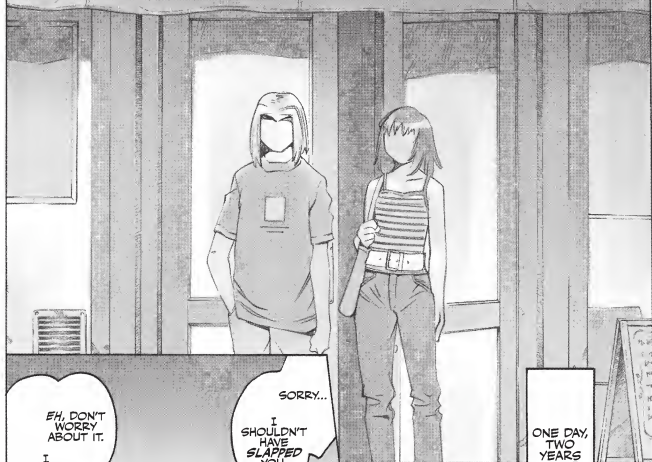
THE
STARS
ARE SO
FAR
AWAY.

I HEARD
SHE WAS
IN CLASS
UNTIL NOON
THE NEXT
DAY...

BUT I
NEVER
GOT A
CHANCE
TO MEET
UP WITH
HER.

第19話

Chapter Nineteen



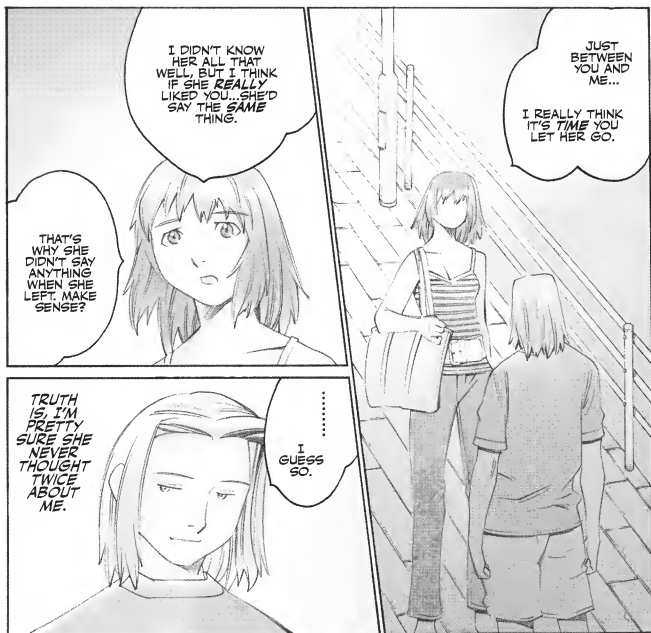
EH, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

I
PROBABLY
DESERVED
IT.

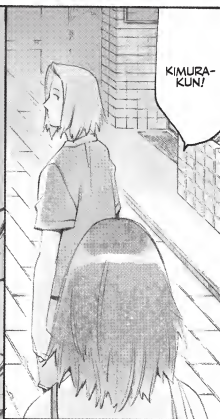
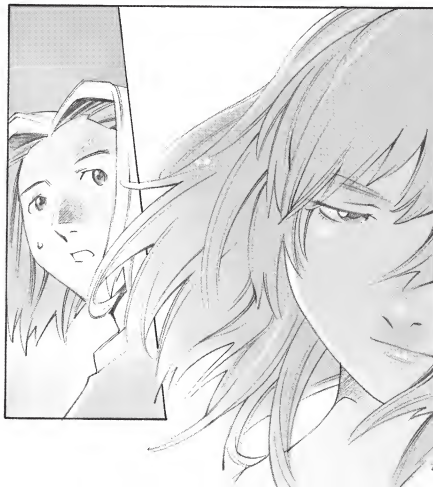
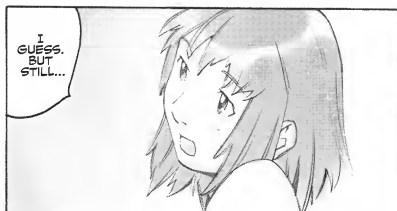
SORRY...

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
SLAPPED
YOU.

ONE DAY,
TWO
YEARS
LATER



EVENTUALLY, MIYASHITA TOUKA EASED UP HER FORCIBLY OVERT ATTEMPTS AT CHEERING ME UP AND LET ME GO ON MY WAY.



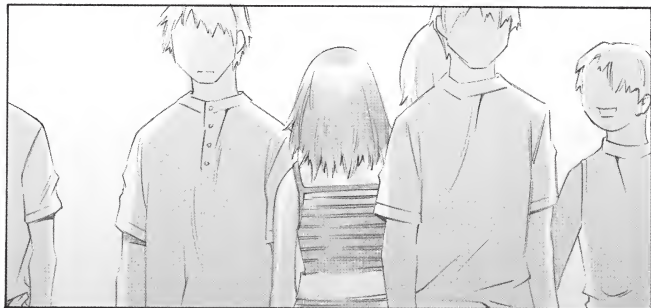
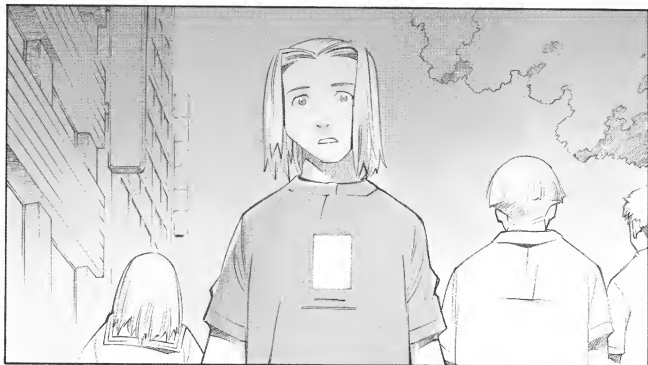


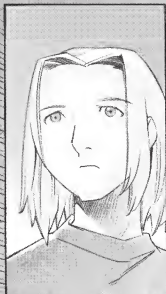
KAMIKISHIRO
NAOKO
PERFORMED
HER DUTY
ADMIRABLY.

YOU
SHOULD
PERFORM
YOUR *OWN*
DUTY, AND
MAKE HER
PROUD.

THAT'S
THE *ONLY*
THING YOU
CAN DO
FOR HER
NOW.

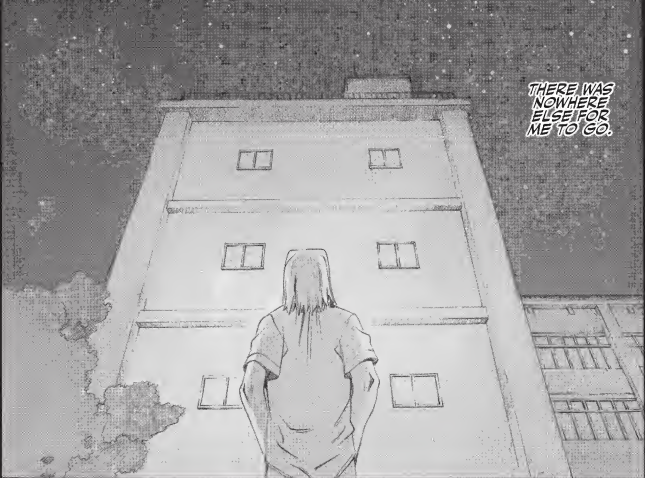
turn





COMING HERE'S NOT GONNA HELP ME FIND OUT ABOUT THAT LETTER.





THERE WAS
NOWHERE
ELSE FOR
ME TO GO.

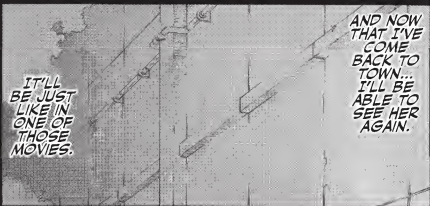


IT'S WEIRD.
WHAT IF
KAMIKISHIRO
ACTUALLY
SENT THE
LETTER
HERSELF?

BUT I
HAVE
TO AT
LEAST
LOOK.

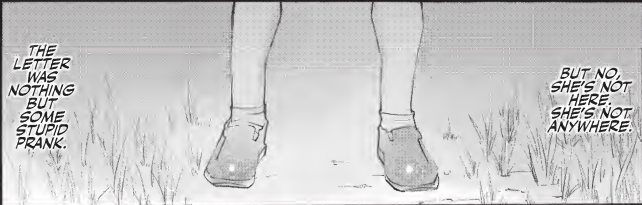


I
KNOW
SHE'S
NOT
HERE.



IT'LL
BE JUST
LIKE IN
ONE OF
THOSE
MOVIES.

AND NOW
THAT I'VE
COME
BACK TO
TOWN...
I'LL BE
ABLE TO
SEE HER
AGAIN.



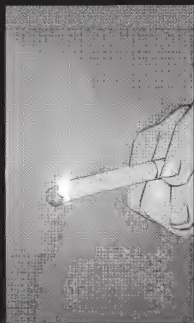
THE
LETTER
WAS
NOTHING
BUT
SOME
STUPID
PRANK.

BUT NO,
SHE'S NOT
HERE.
SHE'S NOT
ANYWHERE.



EVERY-
THING'S
BEEN
OVER
FOR A
WHILE.
IT'S ALL
IN THE
PAST
NOW..





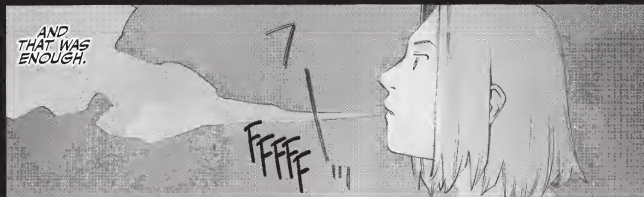
IT WAS ALWAYS
METAPHORICAL
NONSENSE,
BUT SHE DIDN'T
CARE IF I
UNDERSTOOD
IT OR NOT. SHE
JUST LIKED
KNOWING I'D
LISTEN.



SHE
USED TO
TELL ME
ALL HER
LITTLE
SECRETS.
SHE
NEVER
TOLD
TANAKA
SHIRO OR
ANYONE
ELSE...
IT WAS
ALWAYS
ME.



BACK
WHEN I
USED
TO LAY
THERE
WITH
HER
ON THE
RIVER-
BANK...



AND
THAT WAS
ENOUGH.

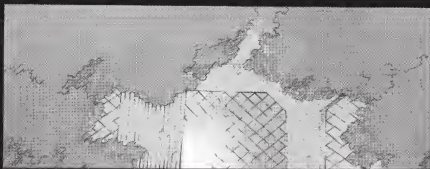
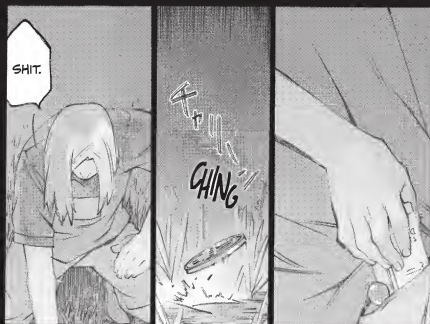


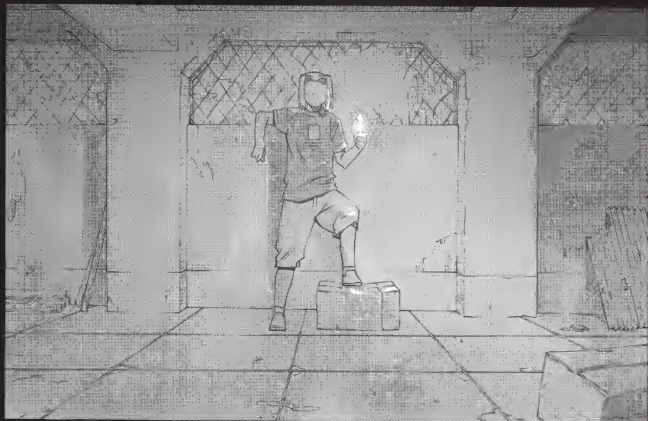
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
I LIKE SOME
OTHER
GIRL, I'LL
ALWAYS BE
CRAZY AND
LOVABLE
LITTLE
KAMIKISHIRO
THAT I'LL
ALWAYS BE
COMPARING
THEM TO.
SHE'S JUST
THAT UNFOR-
GETTABLE.

THAT'S
ALL THE
REASON I
NEEDED
TO KNOW IN
MY HEART
THAT I
COULD
LOVE HER
FOR THE
REST OF
MY LIFE.

*Life is brief, young
maiden, fall in love;
before the crimson bloom
fades from your lips,
before the tides of passion
cool within your hips,
for those of you who
know no tomorrow.*







MM?



MAN.

NEVER
KNEW
THIS
WAS
HERE...





WAAAH?!!

WHEN
KAMIKISHIRO
HAD VANISHED,
SHE WASN'T
THE ONLY ONE.
A NUMBER OF
OTHER GIRLS
HAD GONE
MISSING
AROUND THE
SAME TIME.

OH MY
GOD!
WHAT
THE
HELL?!

41141
CRACKLE

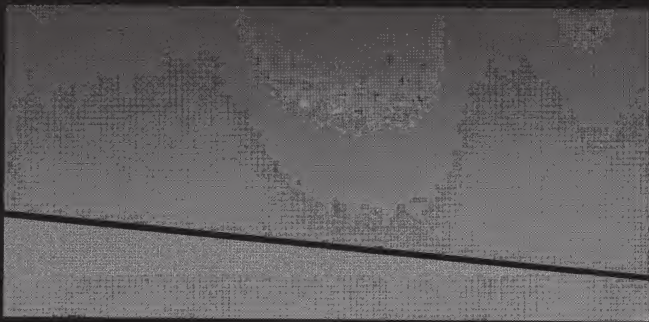


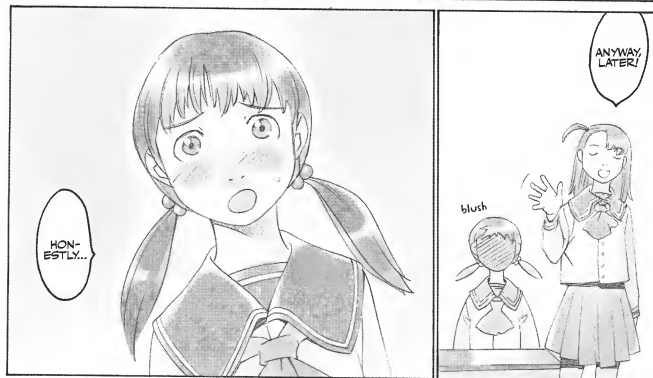
BUT I
COULDN'T
THINK OF
ANY OTHER
REASON
WHY A HAND
WOULD JUST
BE LYING ON
THE FLOOR
OF A SCHOOL.

I'D
NEVER
MADE
THE
CONNEC-
TION
BEFORE...



WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED
HERE
TWO YEARS
AGO?



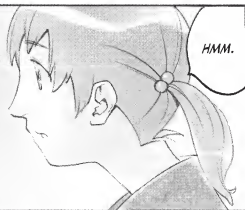








I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY. SHE'LL
PROBABLY
SHOW UP
EVENTUALLY.



HMM.



YOU
SHOULD
ASK
KIRIMA
NAGI.



THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
LIKE TO
KNOW
SOMETHING.

OH,
I JUST
OVER-
HEARD
YOU.



KNOW
WHAT?!



NAGI JUST
GOT OFF
SUSPENSION,
SO THAT
MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING
TO WITH
IT.

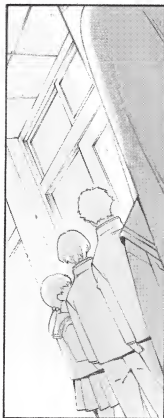
OH, JUST THAT
NAOKO-SEMPAI
AND NAGI'VE
BEEN **FRIENDS**
SINCE JUNIOR
HIGH.

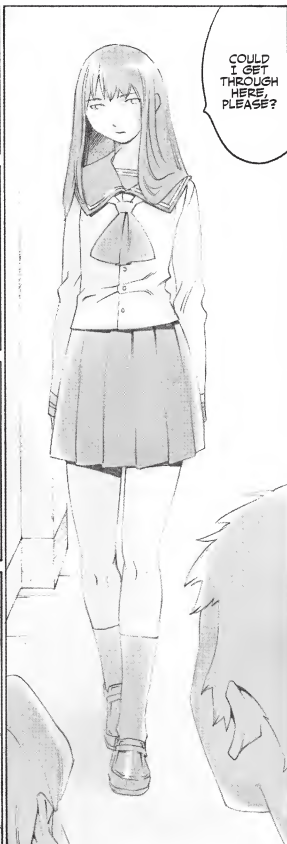
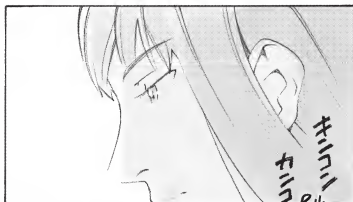
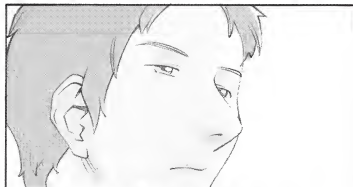


EH,
MASAMI?

WHAT
DO
YOU...?









I TRIED
HER CELL.
THERE'S NO
ANSWER.

.....

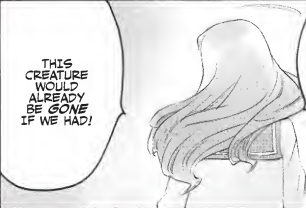


NAOKO'S
VANISHED!
I CAN'T
FIND HER
ANY-
WHERE!



I **KNEW**
IT! WE
SHOULD
NEVER
HAVE
LISTENED
TO YOU!

AND
THAT MEANS
WE'RE
THROUGH
WAITING!
TELL ME
WHAT YOU
KNOW!!



THIS
CREATURE
WOULD
ALREADY
BE **GONE**
IF WE HAD!

WE
SHOULD'VE
JUST CALLED
THE **COPS...**



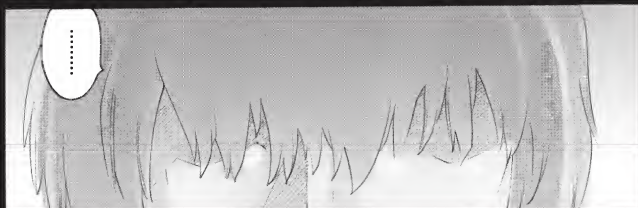
IF THAT
THING GOT
NAOKO...
SO HELP
ME GOD...

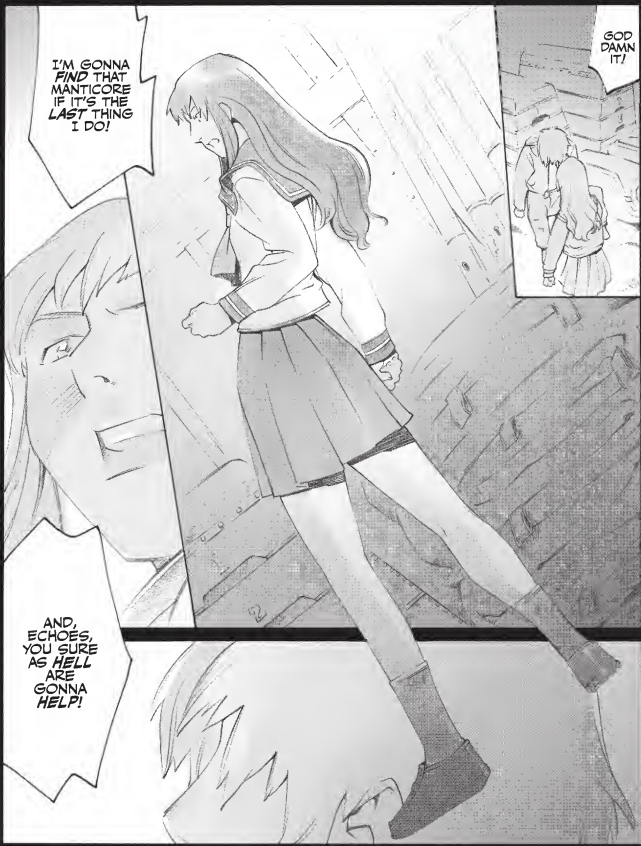


I NEED
SOME DAMN
ANSWERS
NOW!

TELL
ME *WHAT*
YOU'RE
THINKING!

SAY
SOMETHING!
YOU TALKED
TO NAOKO,
DIDN'T YOU?!

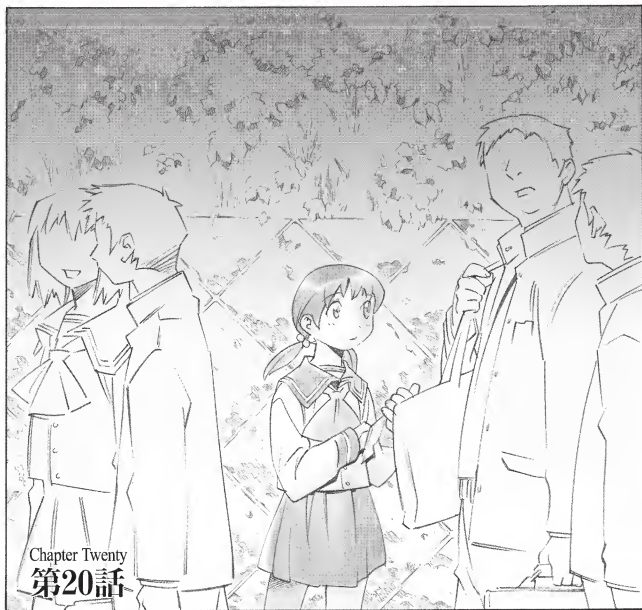


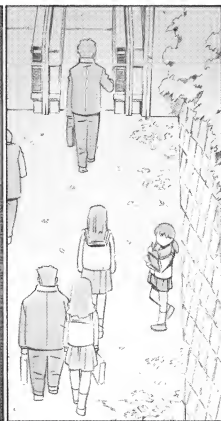
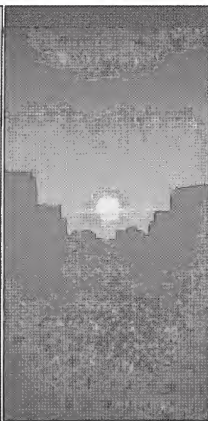
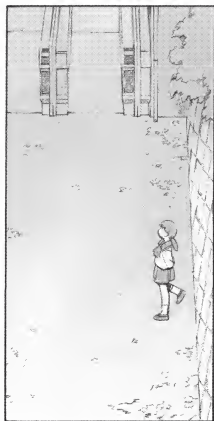


I'M GONNA
FIND THAT
MANTICORE
IF IT'S THE
LAST THING
I DO!

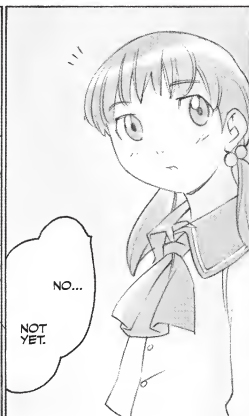
GOD
DAMN
IT!

AND,
ECHOES,
YOU SURE
AS HELL
ARE
GONNA
HELP!





OH...
I SEE.



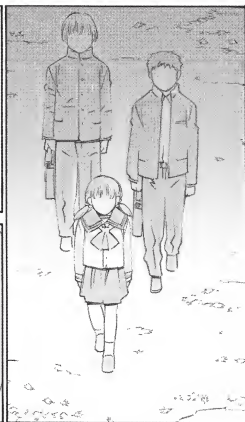
NO...
NOT
YET.



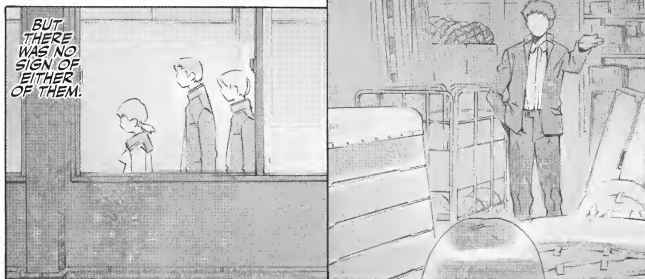
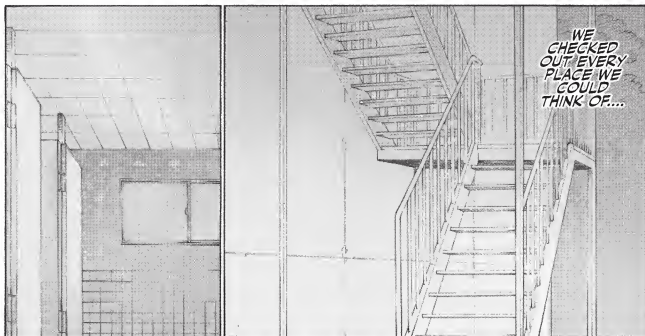
AH,
SEMPAI!

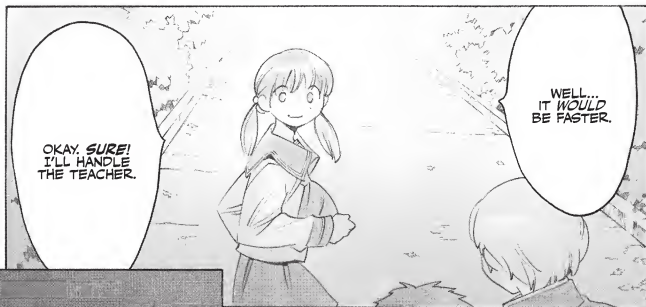
HOW'D
IT GO?
ANY
LUCK?











Please
report
to the
broadcast
office?

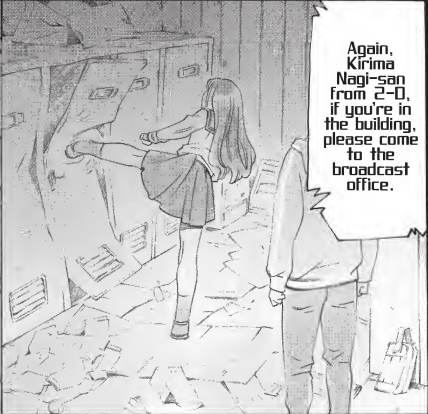
Attention...
Will Kirima
Nagi-san
from 2-D...

宿直室
NIGHT DUTY ROOM

If you're
still in the
building,
we'd like to
talk to you
regarding
Kamikishiro
Naoko-san.



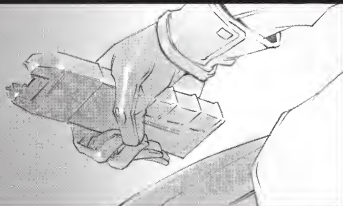
HOW DO
THEY KNOW
I'M STILL
HERE?



Again,
Kirima
Nagi-san
from 2-0,
if you're in
the building,
please come
to the
broadcast
office.



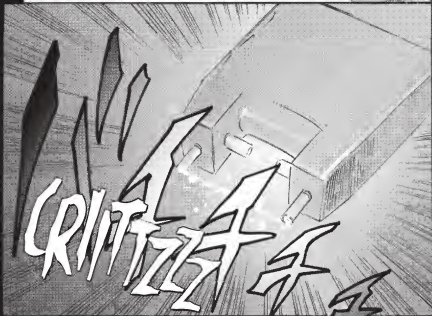
ECHOES,
DO YOU
SENSE
ANYTHING?
IS THE
MANTICORE
NEAR?!

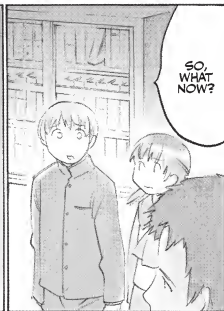
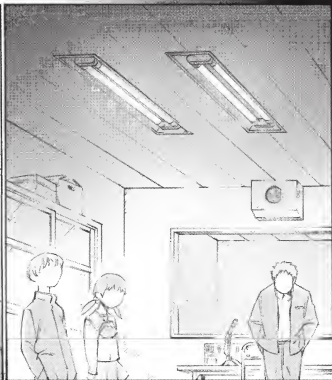


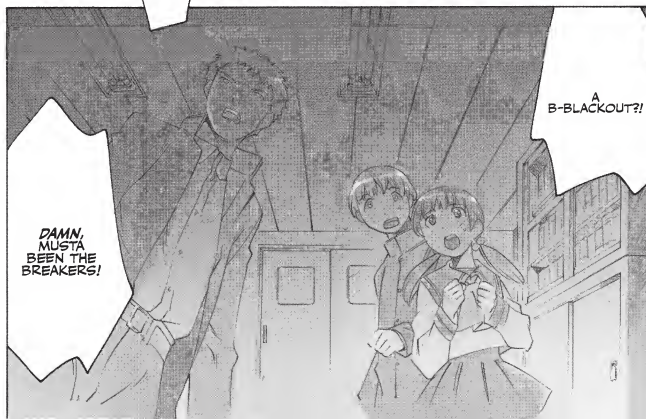
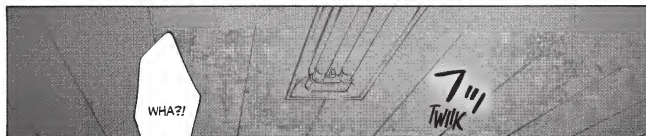
BUT IF WE
DON'T MAKE
OUR MOVE
NOW, IT'S
GAME OVER.
IT'LL JUST
CHANGE ITS
APPEARANCE
AND VANISH.



YEAH,
I KNOW.
IT'S A
TRAP.













SHIT!

FOOO OFF!!!

KIRIMA...
SAN...?

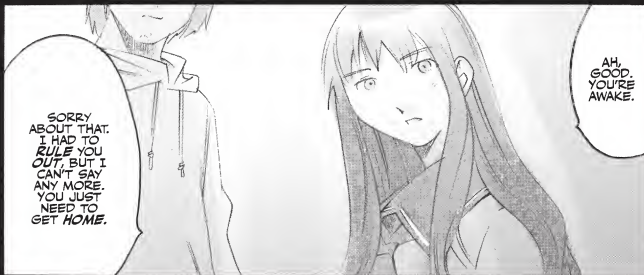
WHO...
WHO'S
THAT
TALKING?

ARE
YOU
SURE?

NONE
OF 'EM
HAVE
BEEN
ALTERED?

NONE
OF THEM.

WHAT?!
IT'S NONE
OF THEM,
ECHOES?





YOU
HIT ME
WITH A
**STUN
GUN!**

YOU CAN'T
EXPECT
ME TO JUST
WALK AWAY!
I GOTTA
KNOW **WHY!!**



WHEN
HELL
FREEZES
OVER!



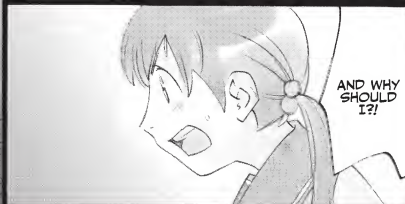
FOR
YOUR
OWN
GOOD.



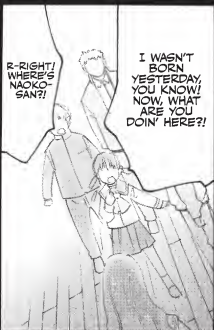
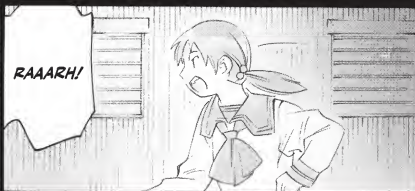
BUT
TRUST
ME, YOU
NEED TO
KEEP
QUIET
ABOUT
THIS.

TURN

HEH.
I CAN
SEE **WHY**
YOU GOT
PICKED
TO BE
PRESIDENT.



AND WHY
SHOULD
I?!





NO,
YOU
CAN'T.

WHY
NOT?!



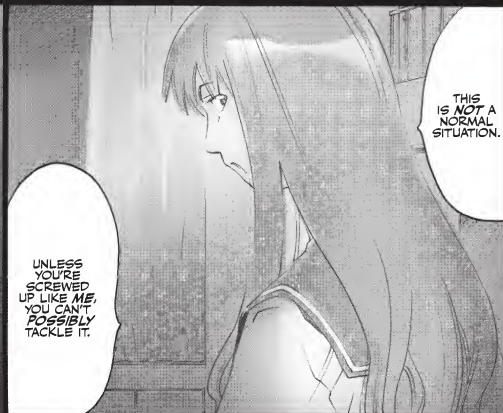
JUST
TELL US
WHAT'S
GOING ON.
WE CAN
HELP!



LOOK, I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
NAOKO
TOO.

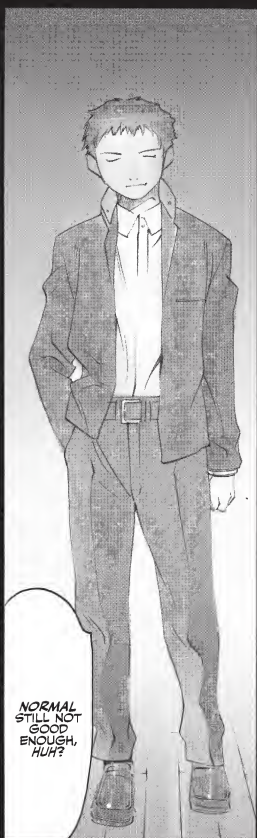
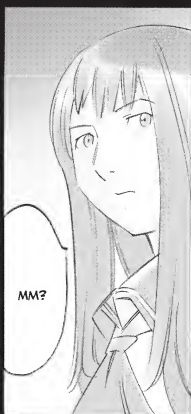


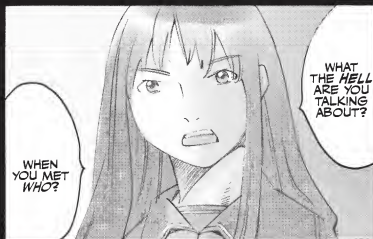
HEH
HEH
HEH.



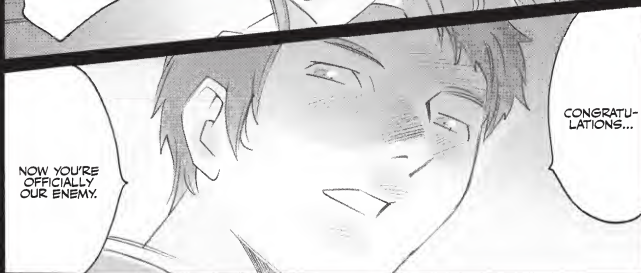
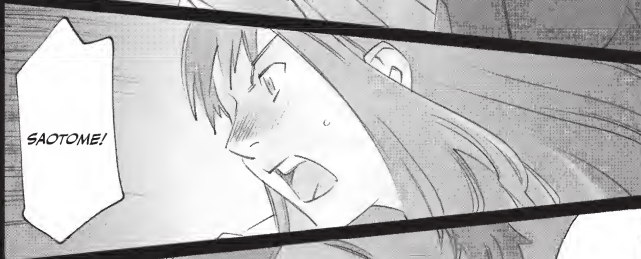
THIS
IS *NOT* A
NORMAL
SITUATION.

UNLESS
YOU'RE
SCREWED
UP LIKE ME,
YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
TACKLE IT.









第21話

Chapter Twenty-One

























THERE
YOU ARE.





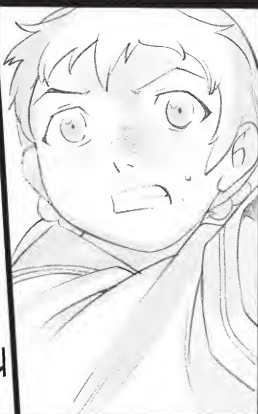


ST-STAY
BACK!

HENH.

AND WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN TO
DO WITH
THAT?









IT'S
NO USE
ASKING
HIM FOR
HELP. HE'S
NEARLY
DEAD
ANYWAY.

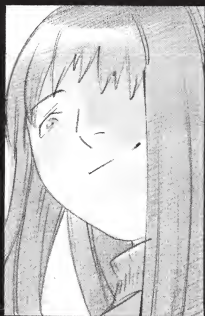


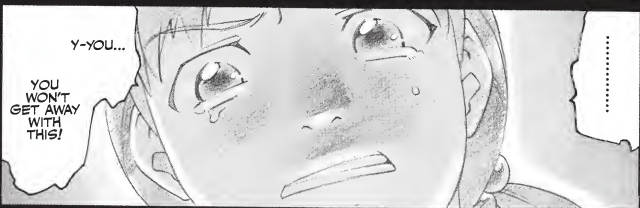
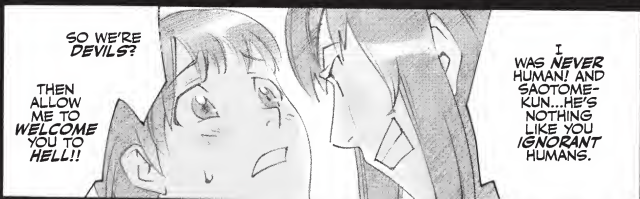
I KNOW.
I *NEVER*
THOUGHT
HE WOULD
BE *THIS*
WEAK.

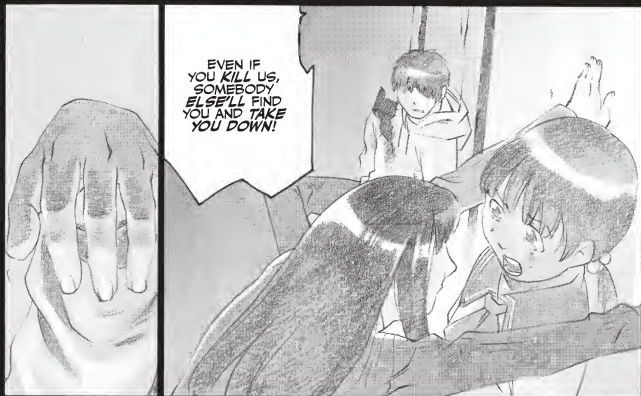
I MUST
SAY, I'M
ACTUALLY
A LITTLE
DISAP-
POINTED.

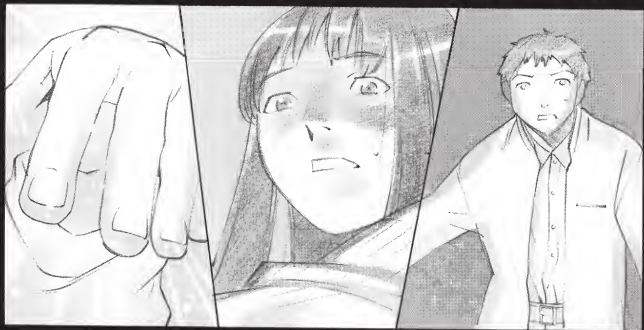
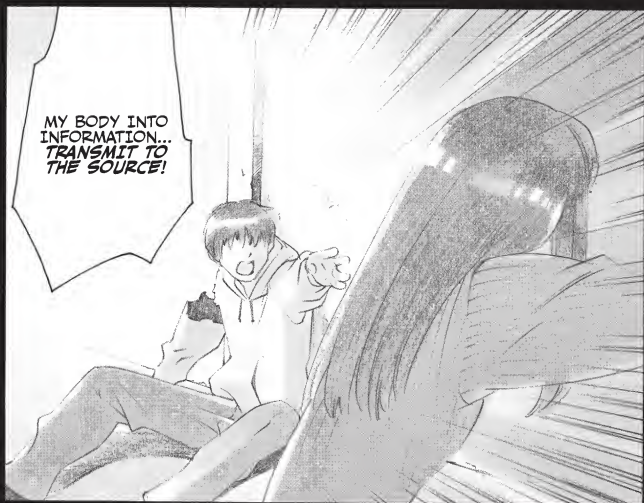


SEE, THAT
WASN'T SO
HARD. YOU
MIGHT *EVEN*
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO WIN
WITHOUT
RESORTING
TO YOUR
TRICKS.











Final Chapter
最終話



HI!!
RUSTIE



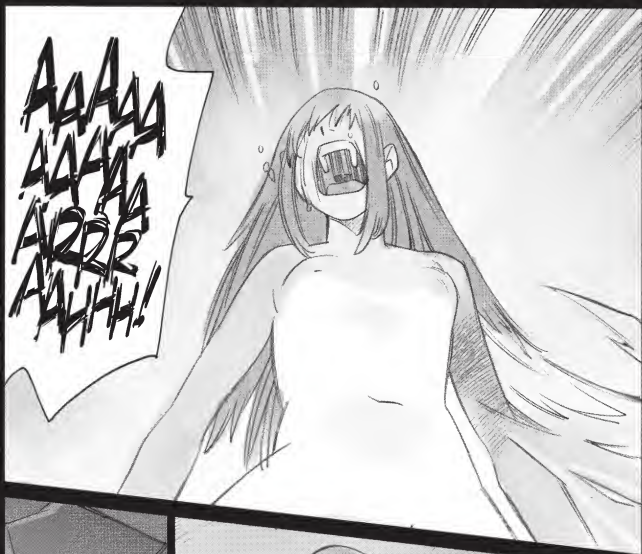
UNH...

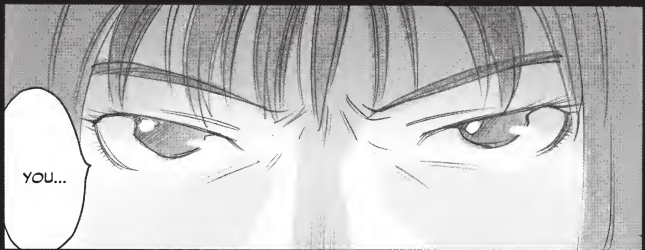
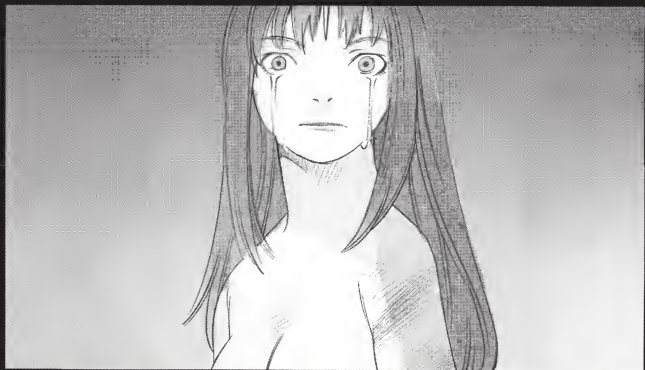


E-ECHOES-
SAN?









DIE!

FWSH

LOOOFF







IT...IT
CAN'T
BE...!

BOOGIE-
POP?!

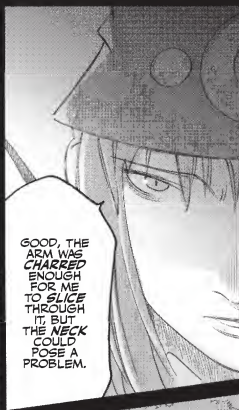


NO.
CURRENTLY,
I AM
BOOGIEPOP.



MIYASHITA-
SAN?!

**B-BUT
THAT
FACE...!
THAT'S...!**



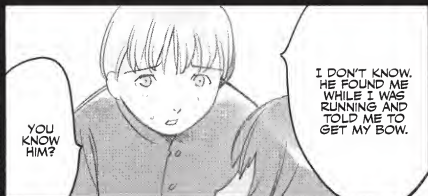
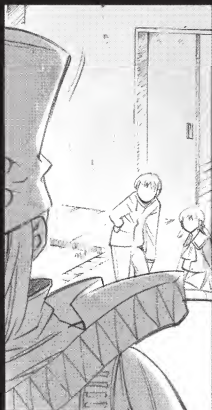
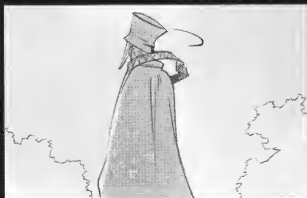
GOOD, THE
ARM WAS
CHARRED
ENOUGH
FOR ME
TO **SLICE**
THROUGH
IT, BUT
THE **NECK**
COULD
POSE A
PROBLEM.

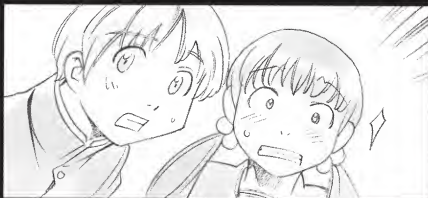
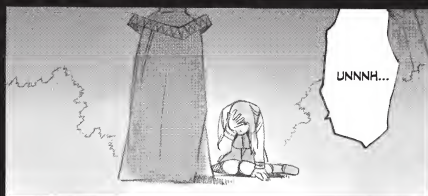


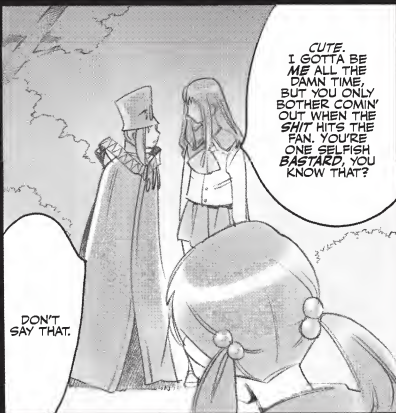
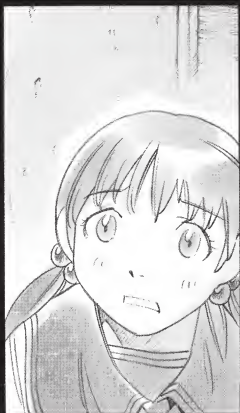


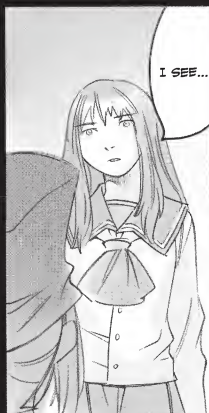




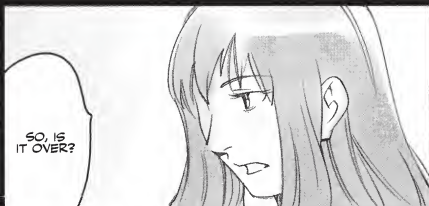








I SEE...



SO, IS
IT OVER?



YES.

THANKS
TO ECHOES'
SACRIFICE
AND THE
COMMITTEE
PRESIDENT'S
COURAGE.



Y-YES?



NIITOKI
KEI!



IT'S BECAUSE
OF PEOPLE LIKE
YOU THAT THE
WORLD MANAGES
TO REMAIN A
HALFWAY DECENT
PLACE. *NEVER*
LOSE THAT
STRENGTH.

YOU
CERTAINLY
DO HAVE
A STRONG
WILL ABOUT
YOU.



Bow

IN THE
WORLD'S
STEAD,
I THANK
YOU.



IT
HAD
BEEN
ONE
HELL
OF A
NIGHT.

ALL I
COULD
DO WAS
STAND
THERE,
STUNNED.

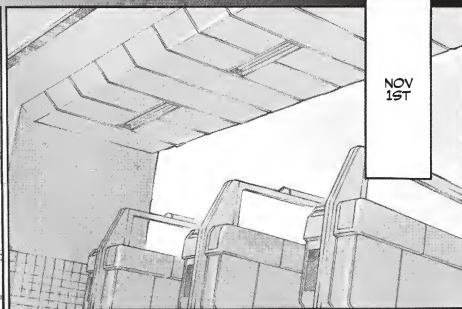


EVERY-
THING
WAS
FINALLY
OVER.

BUT I
WAS
JUST
GLAD
THAT...



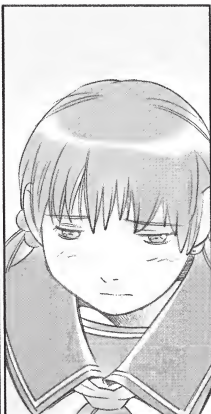
SO,
NAOKO-SAN
IS REALLY...?



NOV
1ST

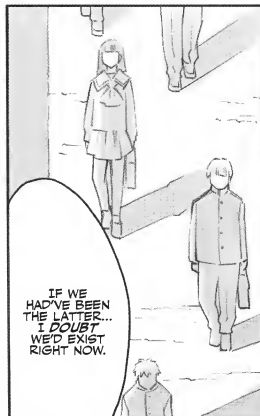


BUT
NAOKO
DID SAY
SOMETHING
A LITTLE
STRANGE
ONCE.

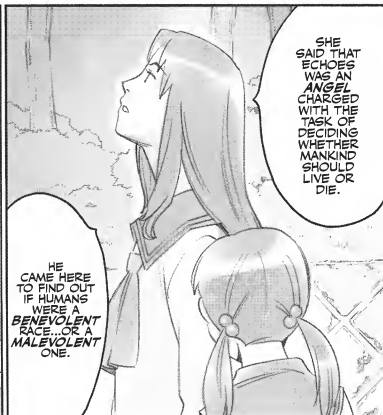


YEAH...

THE
MANTICORE
PROBABLY...
WELL, YOU
KNOW.



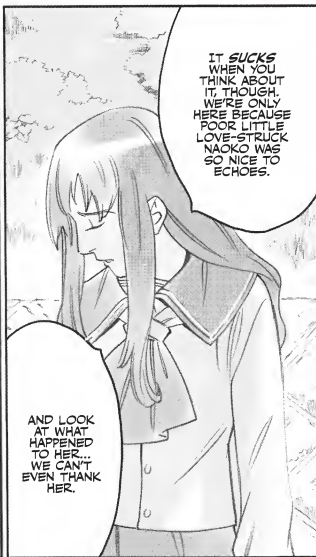
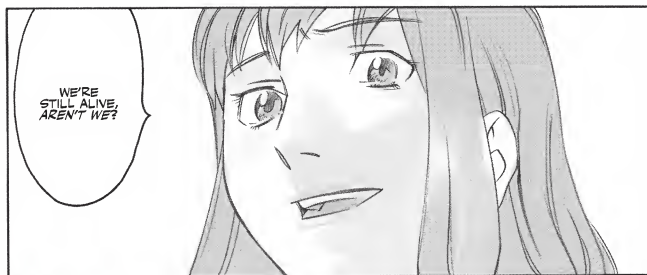
IF WE
HAD'VE BEEN
THE LATTER...
I DOUBT
WE'D EXIST
RIGHT NOW.

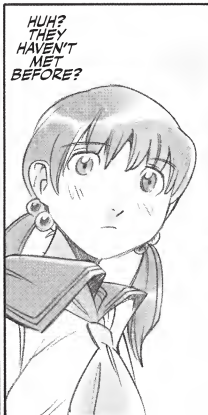
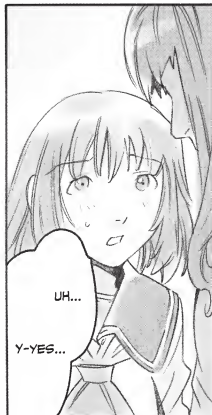
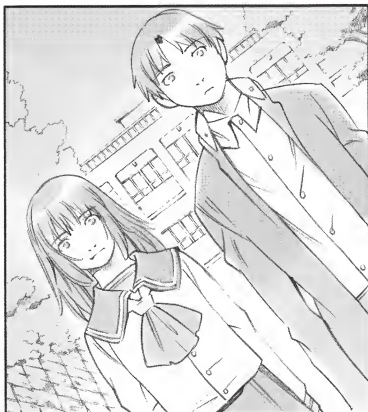


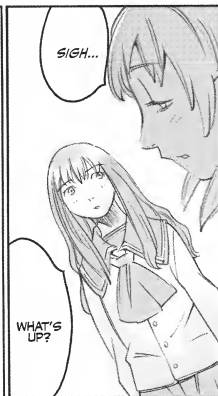
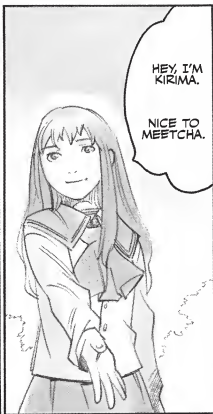
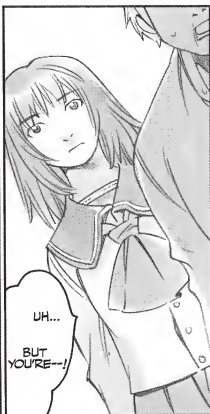
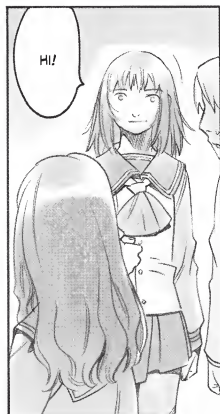
SHE
SAID THAT
ECHOES
WAS AN
ANGEL
CHARGED
WITH THE
TASK OF
DECIDING
WHETHER
MANKIND
SHOULD
LIVE OR
DIE.

HE
CAME HERE
TO FIND OUT
IF HUMANS
WERE A
BENEVOLENT
RACE...OR A
MALEVOLENT
ONE.











*Life is brief, young
maiden, fall in love;
before the crimson bloom
fades from your lips,
before the tides of passion
cool within your hips,
for those of you who
know no tomorrow.*

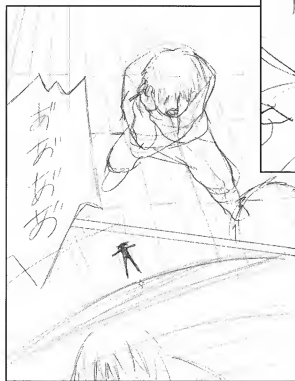
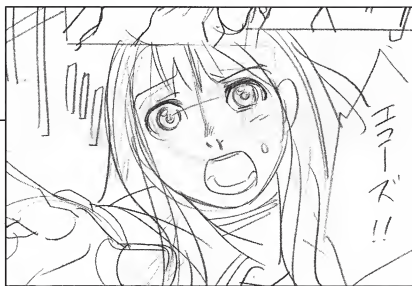
THE END

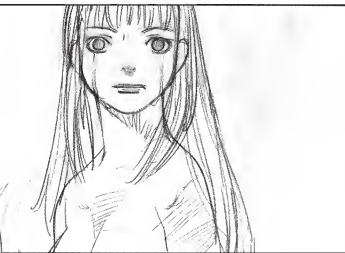
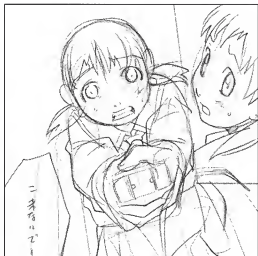
Vol.2

メイキンググラフィック集
SKETCH BOOK

Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh ブギーポップは 笑わない







ブギーポップは
笑わない

1

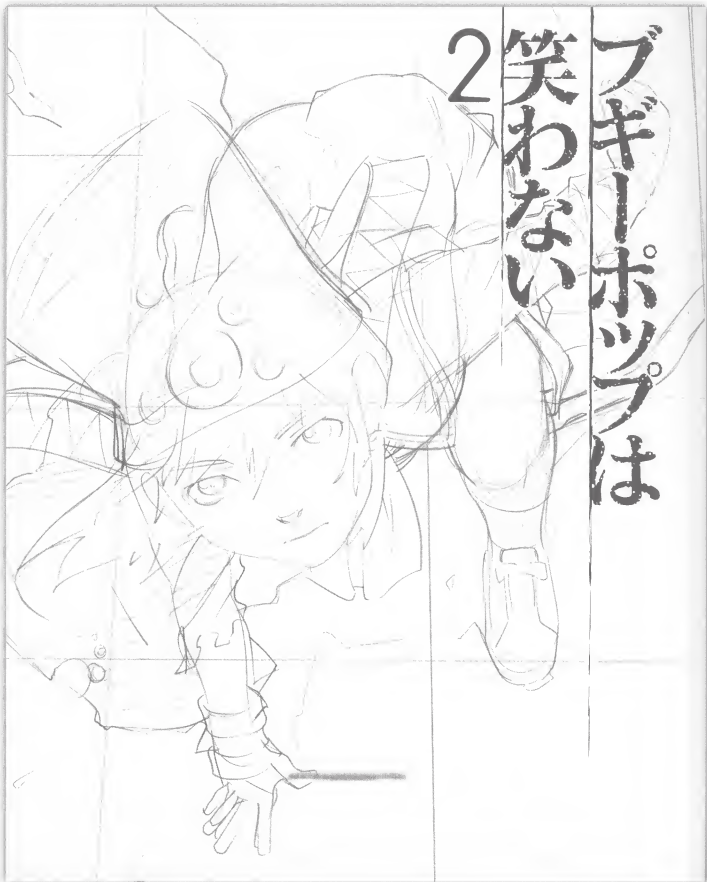


h.v.

ブギーポップは

笑わない

2



Of course, Boogiepop is not technically a character—he's more of a phenomenon. He's not a reflection of my personality, or an excuse to air my opinions, but for some reason, he is always completely confident. His speeches are strange, and his clothes even stranger, but he's neither embarrassed by it nor defiantly proud of them. He's just strange—both immobile and unwavering. I gave him the name Boogiepop because bubbles have such a frightening tension to them that they burst at the slightest vibration. But the story is, in a sense, always chasing after some sort of vibration, so he ended up not being dramatic at all. Lord only knew if the book would sell, so putting a character like that in it should have been cause for hesitation (after all, I'd been rejected before on exactly those grounds), but for some reason, I didn't feel like that at all. Instead, I slapped him down on the roof with a sense of utter calm, "If he's not in it, there's no point in writing the book." The moment he was there, everything seemed so easy. I'd known it before I even started writing. When I'd long since given up trying to follow incomprehensible classes and sat staring out of the window at the roof of the opposite building, I'd daydreamed about how great it would be if someone weird was up there. This was my only source of conviction, and armed with that quiet certainty, I attempted to write good books to sell to a world I'd long since decided had no value.

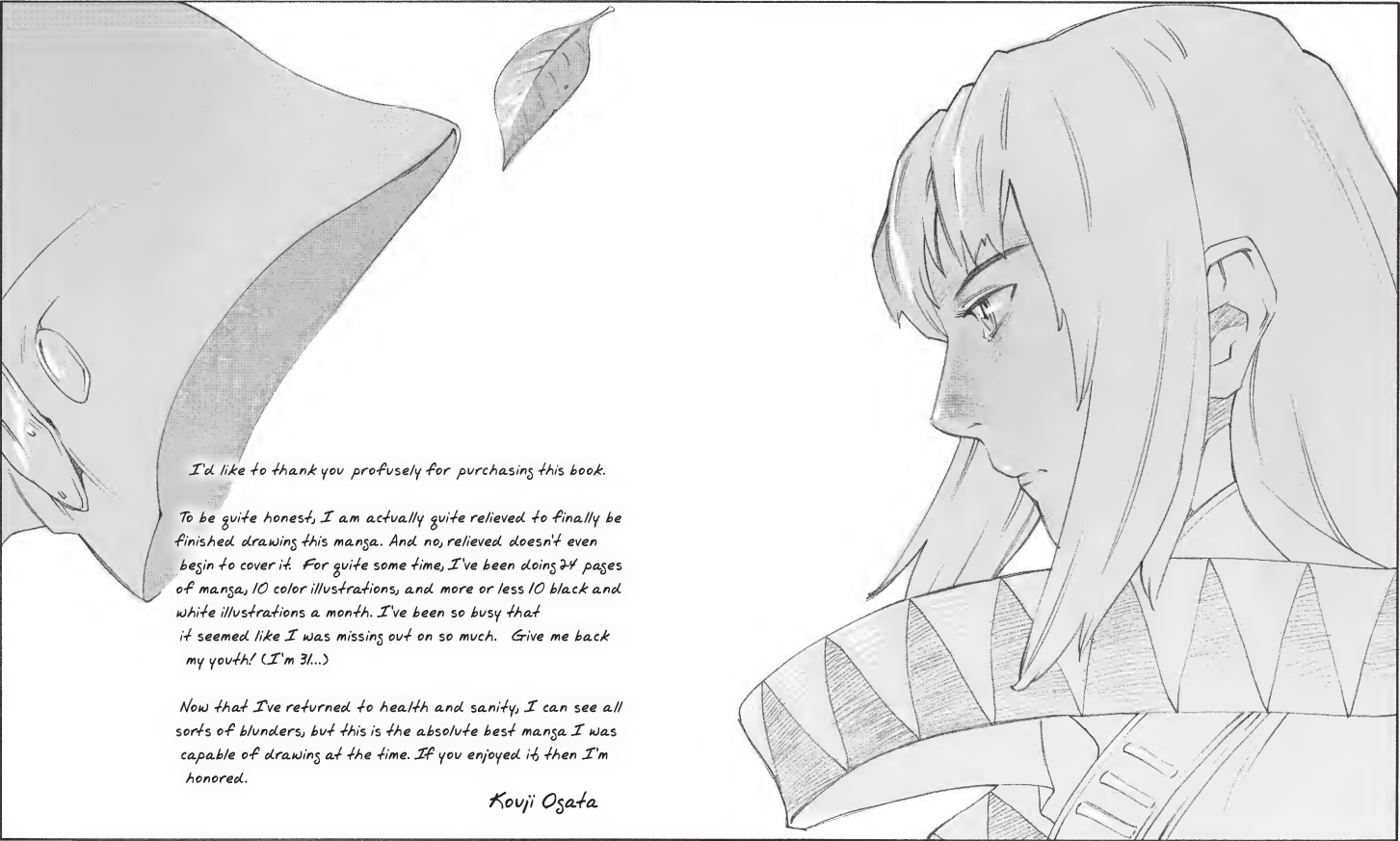
But inevitably, the more I wrote, the more the characters took on lives of their own, despite my best efforts to the contrary, and lots of scenes I thought Boogiepop should be in, no longer welcomed him. Takeda Keiji, Suema Kazuko, Saotome Masami, Niitoki Kei—each chapter's main character came alive and lived in their school in a way I never had. "I never went to a school like this..." I thought, growing a little sad as I wrote. And the novel I thought I was writing at the end of my rope ended up being about a world that was self-centered, odd, and bittersweet. I still dream about the school this book is set in, but even now, I'm just sitting there, doing nothing. Boogiepop has never once shown up in my dreams. And I'm still writing every novel like I'm at the end of my rope. Part of me wants to moan about this, but as Boogiepop would say, "That's the way the world is." That's the kind of guy he is. Oh well. The End.

(Is this reminiscing or bitching?)
(Whatever.)

BGM "Heartbreaker" by LED ZEPPELIN 

I was at the end of my rope. Naturally, I'm speaking of my state of mind at the time I wrote *Boogiepop and Others*. I was flat out broke, and an editor at one of the publishing houses had started saying things like, "There's no point in you sending us anything else," and it felt like the realization that I wasn't going to ever accomplish anything by writing novels. It was like I was just hovering around the outskirts of my life. It under that sort of pressure that wrote the book. Even now, I sometimes wonder why I chose to set it in a high school, considering how little I had ever managed to accomplish there. Granted, I had written quite a few novels by then, but it was the first time one had actually set one in a high school. I had been convinced I couldn't write about it, since I had basically never done anything of importance during my time in school, but somehow, I changed my mind. I remember being absolutely convinced that I could write this book, even before I started writing it. I put that conviction into one of my characters...and thus Boogiepop was born.

Kouhei Kadono BOOGIEPOP'S WORLD



I'd like to thank you profusely for purchasing this book.

To be quite honest, I am actually quite relieved to finally be finished drawing this manga. And no, relieved doesn't even begin to cover it. For quite some time, I've been doing 24 pages of manga, 10 color illustrations, and more or less 10 black and white illustrations a month. I've been so busy that it seemed like I was missing out on so much. Give me back my youth! (I'm 31...)

Now that I've returned to health and sanity, I can see all sorts of blunders, but this is the absolute best manga I was capable of drawing at the time. If you enjoyed it, then I'm honored.

Kouji Osata

Boogiepop Phantom is one of the more prominent characters in the series, even though he only appears for a relatively short period of time. His choice of names is apt as he is indeed a phantom—an immaterial being created by a combination of Manticore's attempt to survive its physical destruction and Boogiepop's own memories.

Since the night when the beam of light split the sky, all has not been right in the city. An aurora can be seen in the sky and the pulse that expanded across the city did not just affect electronics, but also people. As a result, various students at Shinyo Academy and also Hijiridani High School began exhibiting abilities they had not possessed before that night.

BOOGIEPOP PHANTOM ©2001 Kouhei Kadono/Mediaworks.

Fractured Timeline

Each episode in the series focuses on a particular person and events are told in the same non-linear, vignette style found in both the books and the live action movie. The series itself covers three specific time periods: five years before the events of *Boogiepop* and *Others* when a serial killer was active in the city; the recent past contained in *Boogiepop* and *Others*—such as the climax of the novel or earlier events such as Saotome peddling Manticore's drug; and finally, a period of time set in the present that spans the months after the beam of light.

To explain this to the viewer, each scene is broken down and numbered with the location and the time period indicated. This method also retains the omnipresent feel of the entire *Boogiepop* franchise by showing the same scene or events a number of times from different perspectives, often out of chronological order. In the case of the anime series, this can leave the viewer quite confused and it takes another couple of episodes before the context is discovered. This method also allows for some of the more interesting scenes to be viewed, including answering the question of where exactly Boogiepop got his costume from and the precise event that triggered his first appearance five years ago.

BOOGIEPOP

The Ultimate Guide PART 2

by Lesley Smith

The beam of light featured at the climax of *Boogiepop* and *Others* was not the end of the story, but merely the beginning of the epilogue. From January 6, 2000 to March 22, 2000, a twelve-episode anime series took Japan by storm and added a whole new dimension to the already complex mythology of the *Boogiepop* franchise. This series was called *Boogiepop Phantom*.

Boogiepop Phantom is often mentioned in the same breath as *Serial Experiments Lain* and the more recent *Paranoia Agent*. All three series share a philosophic style and a dark, almost disturbed, feel that encourages the viewer to pay extra close attention and draw his or her own conclusions from the events shown. None of the answers are ever simple and a true understanding of the show's deeper meaning may not even be truly found until the second or third viewing. For trivia buffs, *Lain* and *Boogiepop Phantom* are often noted as share a voice actress—that of Shimizu Kaori who provides not only the voice of Lain herself, but also Miyashita Touka in *Boogiepop Phantom*.

Storyline

One night, a bright beam of light was seen shooting up to the heavens from the location of Shinyo Academy. Moments later, an electromagnetic pulse rippled across the city destroying computers and causing millions of homes to go dark. The form of Yurihara Minako, which the Manticore adopted, was gone and the Academy students were continuing on with their lives... but all is not finished.

Boogiepop remains, despite completing his mission and vanquishing Manticore. However, not everything is as it seems. As fate would have it, there is actually a Boogiepop doppelganger running around who, out of "respect" for the original, has dubbed himself "Boogiepop Phantom." Despite the fact that both of these Boogiepops dress the same, it is possible to tell the two apart: the original Boogiepop possesses Miyashita Touka's short stature and her face, while Boogiepop Phantom is taller, has a more feminine voice and possesses the face of Manticore's final form, Yurihara Minako.

Character Designs

Despite introducing a vast number of new characters not referred to in the novels, *Boogiepop Phantom* also sees the return of Kirima Nagi, Suema Kazuko and, of course, Miyashita Touka, amongst others. The character designs for these more familiar characters, including Saotome and Boogiepop, are also based on those drawn by Kouji Ogata, the illustrator of the novels.

This anime itself was rendered in a style that gives the entire series a dark tone and bleak feeling. Even the city itself feels claustrophobic. *Boogiepop Phantom* blurs the lines between horror and science-fiction in a way that forces viewers to contemplate philosophical questions about life, death, and the very natures of both time and reality. The only way to truly grasp what's going on is to re-watch each episode multiple times and immerse oneself in the entire *Boogiepop* mythology.

Soundtrack and Commentary

No discussion about *Boogiepop Phantom* would be complete without touching on one of its most notable features—its soundtrack. Best described as “unique,” the anime’s soundtrack covers everything from haunting Gregorian chants to hard-core electronic beats. In addition to single-noted pedestrian noise that reverberates throughout the entire series, there are a number of interesting sound effects, like the noise made by a CD skipping, which can be heard in the most unlikely of sections of the anime. Indeed, many of the sound effects are either so distorted they cannot be identified or were invented specifically for *Boogiepop Phantom* and have simply never been recorded before.

Another aspect which made *Boogiepop Phantom*’s Region 1 DVD release both anticipated and unique were the accompanying English-language commentaries by the producer Jeff Thompson and the ADR Director Joe Digorgi. Still a rarity on the majority of anime DVDs out there, the commentaries give another dimension to the series by offering insight into the monumental task of translating the series into English and further tidbits about the episodes that casual viewers might miss.

When you’ve finished watching *Boogiepop Phantom*, be sure to pick up *Boogiepop Dual* Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 for the third and fourth parts of our *Boogiepop: The Ultimate Guide* as we delve into the other novels and books that comprise this unforgettable franchise.



BOOGIEPOP

The Ultimate Guide PART 2

Cast of Characters

The twelve episodes focus on a number of characters—including “Fire Witch” Kirima Nagi—that have been affected by the events surrounding the beam of light. Some characters have gained special abilities, while others have been forced to cross paths with characters like Boogiepop Phantom, the mysterious butterfly girl known as Kisaragi Manaka, or the psychic essence which is all that remains of the Manticore—an essence that adopts various forms including that of Saotome Masami. Added to this, each of the characters—be they good or evil—have their own lives, loves and dreams, as well as a good measure of problems that affect their personalities making them feel more rounded and real.

The overall theme of the series is one concerning evolution; hence its usage as the volume tag on The Right Stuf International’s Region 1 DVDs—each of which were numbered Evolution 1 through 4.

Each of the students displaying new abilities—from Jonouchi’s ability to remove the bugs of emotion on a person’s heart to Manaka’s gift of expressing memories as butterflies—are evolving and this is something that the mysterious Towa Organization wants stopped at all costs. Ironically, many of these gifts were the results of drugs injected into patients by the Towa Organizations that had been lying dormant for years and were only triggered into existence when the beam of light awakened them.

As a result of this, the Towa Organization and its weird assortment of agents appear throughout the series. Some of the more colorful agents include: artificially created or ‘composite’ humans like Mo Murder, Scarecrow, Spooky E and Snake Eye (who has taken on the appearance of a police officer named Morita). While an important aspect of the series, very little is actually discovered about this secretive and mysterious agency aside from the fact that they wish to kill anyone showing signs of being further along the evolutionary path than regular humans.

This is where Boogiepop Phantom comes in; his purpose is to clean up the mess caused by the Towa Organization. This involves spitting the altered students to safety and placing them in stasis in unused tunnels beneath the city—presumably until the day the rest of humanity catches up with them. He also has to deal with the after-effects of the event that created him, such as the resurrection of Manaka by Echoes (who, as a result, now possesses his speech impediment) and all before the electromagnetic field recovers. Failure will spell not only the end of the psychic residue of Manticore, but also the various apparitions like Poom Poom and Boogiepop Phantom himself.

About the Author

Born in 1968, Kouhei Kadono grew up uncertain about his direction in life. He spent a considerable portion of his early years frittering away his youth before somehow ending up writing novels.

In 1997, Kadono-sensei's first *Boogiepop* novel, *Boogiepop and Others*, took First Place in the Media Works' Dengeki Game Novel Contest. Early the following year, the novel was released to widespread acclaim and ignited the Japanese "light novel" (young adult) trend. Since that time, Kadono-sensei has written thirteen *Boogiepop* novels and several related works such as the *Beat's Discipline* short story collections and the two *Boogiepop* manga series entitled *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* and *Boogiepop Dual*. In its entirety, the *Boogiepop* series has seen over two million copies in print and spawned a live action movie and a hit anime series.

In addition to the *Boogiepop* universe, Kadono-sensei's body of literary work includes a wide array of fantasy and mystery novels such as the *Jiken*, *Soul Drop*, *Limited World* and *Night Watch* series.

About the Illustrator

Born in 1970, a native of Osaka, Kouji Ogata spent his early twenties struggling to get enough credits to graduate from Osaka Design School. In late 1996, Ogata-sensei was commissioned by Media Works to illustrate the first *Boogiepop* novel, *Boogiepop and Others*.

At the time, Ogata-sensei was simply a rising star with a distinctive, eye-catching art style, but he gradually was able to further hone his artistic skills with each subsequent work. His watercolor-style paneling seen in the two-volume *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* manga series was a particularly high point of his early career.

In addition to providing illustrations for novels and manga, Ogata-sensei has been involved with supplying character designs for anime productions including *Boogiepop Phantom*, *Spirit* and *Gin-iro no kami no Agito*.

In his free time he enjoys motorcycles, tennis, and remote controlled models.



Boogiepop

doesn't laugh

VOLUME 2 of 2

story by Kouhei Kadono art by Kouji Ogata

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BOOGIEPOP DOESN'T LAUGH Vol. 2

BOOGIEPOP WA WARAWANAI Vol. 2

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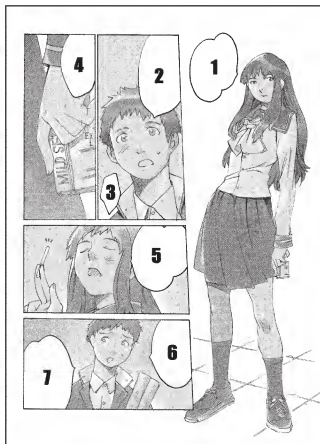
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THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
***Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* Volume 2.**



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

Once you've seen me... you can't be allowed to live.

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